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NO. 60

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CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

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ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.

'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'		Those who take part in Jehad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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As a result of higher tempo of fighting Mujahideen casualties in March rose to 220 killed and 403 wounded, as compared to 47 killed and 70 wounded in February.

Among the positions captured by the Mujahideen noteable were: Samarkhel garrison in Ningarhar, and Salma Dam and Gulran district Headquarters in Herat province.

There was large-scale displacement of civilian population from Eastern Afghan province of Ningarhar, particularly Jalalabad. According to one usually reliable source approximately 30,000 refugees had crossed into Pakistan in February and March 1989.

2 — NOTEABLE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

The Continuing Battle of Jalalabad

It seems Mujahideen attacked Jalalabad in order to eliminate a formidable fortress on the route that leads to the capital Kabul. The fall of Jalalabad speedily would have created serious repercussions on Kabul regimes defences, physical as well as psychological.

Speaking on Moscow Radio on March 14 a Soviet analyst said: "... The importance of Jalalabad city is symbolic. It is close enough to the Afghan capital. It is a major transit point from Peshawar. The fighting around Jalalabad may turn out to be crucial in the course of the Afghan civil war." Three days later on March 17 Radio Moscow said that Mujahideen's selection of Jalalabad for their offensive had been motivated by the desire to easily receive supplies from their friend, Pakistan ..."

The composition of regime forces and their defence arrangements should also be taken into account. Mujahideen got hold of maps and documents of regime forces that provide information about different units defending Jalalabad.

About 15,000 troops belonging to the 1st corps, 11th Division, 9th Division, 10th Frontier Force and 81st Parachute Brigade were involved from the regime's side.

The city was heavily fortified. The terrain around Jalalabad is flat. It was heavily mined. Before withdrawing from that area the Soviet forces had supplied the regime forces with heavy artillery. Moreover, during their stay in Jalalabad, the Soviet troops had built strong underground fortifications around the city. Therefore some experts say, it would not have been easy even for a trained army to take on its defences.

Afghan airforce planes flying from Kabul, Shindand and Bagram airports attacked Mujahideen positions. At times these Soviet made fighters/bombers conducted 60-70 sorties per day.

Had not the civilians deserted the area, the number of casualties would have been much higher.

The Mujahideen force comprised of different groups varying in size, training and experience, altogether between 10-15,000 men. After making quick advances on the 64 km stretch between Torkham and Samarkhel some Mujahideen were hoping that Jalalabad city would be easily captured. Some hoped that the morale of Kabul regime supporters would ebb and the administration collapse. Some analysts underestimated the strength and defence arrangements of Kabul troops. Perhaps they expected that the irregular fighters, who often come together for specific operations, would easily be transformed into a regular organized force. Transition from guerilla to convention methods of war takes time.

After taking Samarkhel the Mujahideen advanced to positions from where they could launch attacks on Jalalabad airport. They also captured two villages over-looking the runway and fired rockets on it.

Mujahideen destroyed an important bridge on the highway linking Kabul with Jalalabad. This would add to the difficulties of Najib regime's bid to send ground reinforcements to Jalalabad. Kabul sources down-played the bridges' importance saying they could use shorter unmetalled roads.

Mujahideen frustrated Kabul troops' attempt to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. They captured several posts in Behsud area north of Jalalabad city and established positions in Behsud village. The initial attack of Mujahideen from the south eastern side of Jalalabad was impeded due to bombardment and shelling. Mujahideen reported that after capturing Behsud bridge over Kabul River they encountered more serious difficulties, as the southern bank of the river touching the city was densely studed with mines. Intense air and infantry operations slowed down the pace of Mujahideen advance from other sides too. Kabul forces were pushing reinforcements around Jalalabad airport and used its heavy fire power against Mujahideen.

It was also reported that the Mujahideenwere at one point using a few Soviet-made tanks and armoured vehicles.

Diplomats based in Kabul reported that the number of the injured recently flown to Kabul from Jalalabad was between 1,000 to 3,000 men.

Late March reports said that on an average 20 cargo planes were daily carrying supplies to Kabul from the Soviet Union. Observers believed that these consignments included arms and ammunition. Some people saw seven to eight metres long rockets being carried from airport to the military camps.

It was believed that if the Najib regime wants to survive it shall

have to keep Mujahideen out of Jalalabad and keep Kabul Jalalabad road open.

Mujahideen continued blocking Jalalabad-Kabul road at a number of points.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimroz (also bordering Iran)

Mujahideen sources: On March 4: Mujahideen attacked a Kabul regime mobile force at Nehr Lashkari near the provincial headquarters, Zaranj. A tank hit. Mujahideen also took seven soldiers as prisoners.

Soviet-made planes attacked Mujahideen positions near Zaranj. Two Mujahideen were killed and one of their vehicles destroyed.

VOA: A delayed report from Nimruz province said that from February 25 to March 2nd thirty people of the government militia were killed in Mujahideen attacks around the provincial capital Zaranj, and fifty others joined the ranks of Mujahideen. Mujahideen claim that only one person on their side was killed and fourteen injured during this eight day fighting. The sources said that Mujahideen have occupied Mashi, Sabazgazi and Qila Gawak areas and their contingents are only eight kilometres away from Zaranj now. They also ambushed a military supply convoy about twenty kilometres east of Zaranj and destroyed one tank and three trucks and captured a truck carrying 150 automatic rifles and two heavy machine-guns. The sources said that Gorgej and Anashini tribes of Baluch origin are assisting Mujahideen during the Zaranj siege (Radio Report—Urdu: March 11, 1989).

Kabul Times: One thousand one hundred and seventy one families consisting of 5858 persons have so far returned home in Nimruz province since the beginning of the national reconciliation policy.

A source of the ministry of repatriates reported to the BIA that 380 other persons individually returned from Pakistan and Iran to that province during the same period.

The repatriates after getting necessary assistance of the ministry were transported to their native homes (BIA, KT: March 11, 1989).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: On February 22: Several formations of Mujahideen took up positions on roads leading to and from Grishik, about 120 kilometres from Qandahar. In ensuing battles atleast 2 tanks were hit and some 50 regime troops killed or wounded.

During an attack on a supply convoy at Qila Surkh Mujahideen killed 11 regime troops.

On March 14: Mujahideen attacked regime troops on the Herat-Qandahar highway near Grishik. They captured "sizeable booty".

Soviet-made aeroplanes made 'retaliatory' attack on Mujahideen in the Grishik area.

On March 19: Mujahideen attacked security posts near Grishik and Lashkargah, capturing 6 of them.

BBC: We had telephonic interview with Mujahideen Commanders in the Afghan Information Centre in Peshawar. First we asked Maulvi Muhammad Nasim Akhunzada, the Commander General of Harkat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami Afghanistan about the situation in his area. He said:

Muhammad Nasim: The Afghan Mujahideen have established strongholds in Hilmand province. The Khalqis are defending the area but they cannot make any aggressive attacks against the Mujahideen due to the shortage of material.

Compere: What is the situation of foodstuff in your area?

Muhammad Nasim: Earlier, there had been no arrangements of food supply to Dreshak. The Soviet-Kabul regime aircraft carried out air raids on the Mujahideen positions day and night during past five months. There are some strategic areas in this province and that is why the Soviets carried out intensive bombardment in a bid to defend these areas. The Muslim people of this area were engaged in fighting with the Communists. Therefore they could not pay attention to agriculture. That is why the food situation was very bad.

Compere: Did you take part in the Shoora?

Muhammad Nasim: Yes, we participated in the Shoora. (March 7, 1989).

Radio Kabul: In Hilmand province three terrorists were killed and five others injured and a huge quantity of their arms captured by the security forces (News—Pushto: March 4, 1989).

Successful operations of the Afghan Armed Forces against the extremist groups supported by Pakistan, are continuing in different parts of the country.

In military operations in the outskirts of Gireshk Uleswali of Hilmand province, twenty-nine extremists were killed and two others were injured. In these operations two Afghan soldiers were martyred and three others were injured (March 30, 1989).

Kabul Times: Three terrorists were killed 5 of them injured and enemy's weapons and ammunition including one tractor and one vehicle were seized by the security forces in a mopping=up operation carried out by the armed forces in the outskirts of Gireshk district (KT:

March 5, 1989).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: On February 25: Mujahideen fire rockets on headquarters of 15th Division and Qandahar airport.

On February 27: Mujahideen shot down a transport aircraft carrying supplies from Qandahar to Deh Rawat.

On February 29: Mujahideen fire rockets on military establishments in Qashla Jadeed and Mahallajat areas. An ammunition depot was hit and exploded. More than 30 troops were believed to have been killed.

On March 1: Mujahideen attack regime troops and establishments in and around Qandahar airport.

On March 3: A part of runway of Qandahar airport was damaged by Mujahideen rockets.

On March 4: Ten members of Esmatullah Militia deserted and joined Mujahideen.

On March 5: Clashes continue between Mujahideen and regime troops around Qandahar airport.

On March 6: An aircraft shot down in Torkotal area while it was bombing Mujahideen positions.

Another aircraft shot down in Zargar area.

On March 7 and 8: Mujahideen subjected regime troops and establishments to heavy bombing in Maiwand district. Two tanks destroyed.

On March 9: Mujahideen continue operations against regime troops and establishments in Maiwand district. Twenty 'infidel' troops were believed killed. Three armoured vehicles were also destroyed.

Mujahideen attack regime troops in Dand.

On March 10 and 11: Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments in Torkotal and Qandahar airport areas.

On March 12 and 13: Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Qandahar airport and Chel Zina areas.

Twenty-eight regime soldiers belonging to the 7th Division deserted and joined Mujahideen (somewhere) in Qandahar province.

On March 14: Fierce fighting continues around Qandahar city and airport for the control of Torkotal and Jagnaray security posts. A parked aircraft was hit on the airfield.

On March 16: Mujahideen attack regime security posts in Ghalkoh district. A tank was destroyed in Anar Darah.

On March 19: Heavy fighting continues around Qandahar city and airport. Mujahideen fired rockets on the headquarters of 2 Corps and 7 Mechanised Division. They also attacked Jozjani militia.

On March 22: Mujahideen attacked Qandahar airport destroying several installations including an oil 'terminal'. They also neutralized a security post near Torkotal.

On March 25: Mujahideen blast a powerful bomb in the Police headquarters in Qandahar city. Atleast 15 police officers and men were killed.

On March 27: Mujahideen ambush a military convoy on the highway between Lashkargah and Qandahar.

On March 28: Mujahideen attacked security posts around Qandahar city. Atleast 2 tanks and 2 other vehicles were destroyed during these attacks.

On March 29: Mujahideen fire rockets on Qandahar airport. One transport aircraft was hit on the airfield.

Mujahideen and regime forces clash in Torkotal area.

VIRA: In a rocket attack by the Afghan Mujahideen on the Qandahar Military Division, 20 Kabul troops were killed and a huge ammunition dump of the Kabul regime was destroyed.

According to a report from Islamabad, in an attack that took place during the last week, 50 officers and troops of the Kabul regime defected to Afghan Mujahideen (March 10, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen in a missile attack on the Qandahar garrison killed twenty Kabul government troops and destroyed many arms godowns. Fifty officers and soldiers of Kabul government deserted from the garrison and joined the ranks of Mujahideen during these operations last week (March 8, 1989).

BBC: The Mujahideen report that there has been fierce fighting around the Airport in the southern city of Qandahar where they say their fighters have launched another combined attack (Newsreel—English: March 16, 1989).

In Afghanistan there appears to have been a further intensification of fighting around two key provincial cities, Qandahar and Jalalabad. There are also reports of new attacks by rebels on important supply routes. From Kabul here is Liz Ducet:

Both Qandahar and Jalalabad lie close to the Pakistan border and the guerillas' main supply line.

A government spokesman said the Mujahideen assisted by Pakistani militia fired heavy artillery and rockets against Qandahar and its nearby airport on Friday, attacking from positions about twenty miles south of the city. He said the Government responded with air and artillery strikes inflicting heavy casualties among some two thousand five hundred guerillas. It is believed to have been the heaviest attack against this city for some time. The guerillas may be trying to open new

fronts to increase pressure against government forces which so far appeared to be standing their ground (March 20, 1989).

VOG: Afghan rebels are trying to open a second front near the Southern Afghan city of Qandahar. The BBC and the Times of India newspaper reported the Communist Government in Kabul, has again accused Pakistani officers of coordinating the rebel attacks.

There are also reports that supply lines to the cities of Kabul and Jalalabad have been atleast partially cut off. The Mujahideen denied Afghan government reports that two large convoys have arrived in Jalalabad with food and military supplies (News—English: March 28, 1989).

All India Radio: The sources said that attacks by rebels were also launched on Qandahar and Herat provincial capitals.

Meanwhile, a Soviet daily has said that Afghan forces have been victorious in the first large-scale test of strength after the Soviet troops pull out last month (AIR, News—English: March 14, 1989).

Reports from Qandahar province say that eleven rebels have been killed.

The Afghan President, Dr. Najib has called upon the United Nations to monitor, what he called, the Pakistani involvement in major rebel attacks in Eastern Afghanistan.

In a televised address today he claimed that the almost three week long seige of the strategic city of Jalalabad was directed by Pakistani military intelligence.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry has sent messages to the world body giving evidence of violations of the Geneva Accords by Pakitan (AIR, News—English: March 21, 1989).

The correspondent goes on to say that Qandahar and Herat are the other cities where fighting is continuing. Qandahar is the second biggest city of Afghanistan where a considerable number of people of Indian-origin are residing. Afghan rebels are reported to have succeeded in amassing fifteen thousand Mujahideen in the area with the help of Pakistani militia and army. They are attacking several positions with rockets there (AIR: March 21, 1989).

Kabul television showed bodies of about ninety six dead including those of Pakistani military advisers left by retreating rebels near Torkotal on the outskirts of Qandahar (AIR: March 26, 1989).

Radio Kabul: In successful operations of the Armed Forces in the outskirts of Qandahar city, twenty-five extremists were killed. Similarly in Daman Uleswali an ammunition depot of the extremists was destroyed and one leader of the Ittehad-e-Islami, two leaders of Harkat and two foreign advisers were killed (March 1, 1989).

Situation in most of the provinces of Afghanistan remained normal during the last twenty-four hours. According to a responsible source of Armed Forces, during the clean-up operations of Armed Forces in Qandahar, Ningarhar and Herat provinces, twenty-four extremists including three Arab Advisers were killed and twenty-seven others wounded. Besides, a large quantity of weapons was also seized (March 4, 1989).

As a result of mopping-up operations in the Qandahar city area by the armed forces, 12 armed criminals were killed and 23 of them were injured. Three rockets, a recoilless gun, 5 Dashak's, 11 Mortars, and an arms depot belonging to the extremists were destroyed. Also 15 surface-to-surface missiles, 2 boxes of recoilless guns, 11 boxes of Klashnikov shells, 2 boxes of shells belonging to the warmongers were seized by our armed forces (News—Pushto: March 5, 1989).

According to another report of Bakhtar news agency twenty-seven extremists were killed during the successful operations of the armed forces in Torkotal area of Qandahar province. An ammunition depot of the armed extremists was also destroyed. Three Afghan soldiers were martyred and two others injured in these operation (News—Pushto: March 9, 1989).

The military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported from Qandahar that in successful military operations by the armed forces, twenty-seven extremists including two American advisers were killed in Torkotal area. In these operations two ammunition depots and two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed (March 13, 1989).

The extremists by using heavy weapons attacked Qandahar city, martyring three persons and causing injuries to eight others. In retaliation the Afghan artillery killed eleven extremists including their Commander. Another seven extremists were killed as a result of the artillery shelling on their positions in Qandahar (March 19, 1989).

A heavy attack by the joint forces of Pakistan and the Afghan terrorists has been repulsed in Qandahar province.

A reliable source of the armed forces has told Bakhtar news agency that a group of two thousand and three hundred Pakistan-backed terrorists attacked security posts and the airport of Torkotal Uleswali in Qandahar province yesterday. Five hundred Pakistani troops and twelve Arab advisers were also involved in these operations in plain clothes. The security forces foiled these attacks as a result of which one hundred and seventy enemies were killed and more than two hundred others injured. The enemy was forced to retreat, leaving behind the dead-bodies of their accomplices. The security forces have captured

ninety-five dead-bodies, seven of which were identified as Pakistani troops and two commanders. A huge quantity of arms has been seized by the Afghan security forces, while several strongholds and a quantity of arms of the terrorists have also been destroyed. Three soldiers were martyred and seven others injured in these operations.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Air Force has wiped out an ammunition caravan, which arrived in Qandahar from Pakistan (News—Pushto: March 25, 1989).

Radio Moscow: Reports from Kabul say Afghan army units have carried out a series of operations against the armed opposition, killing several dozen rebels in Qandahar and Herat provinces and seizing much a large quantity of weapons and ammunition (March 1, 1989).

More than one hundred and twenty Afghans returned to their motherland from Iran and Pakistan. They were welcomed in Qandahar province. Later they were provided economic assistance as well as transport to take them to their homes.

The Bakhtar news agency has reported that more than eleven thousand Afghan families have recently returned to their country (News—Pushto: March 2, 1989).

Sixteen terroristsshave been killed and six others injured in Qandahar province. Four Afghan soldiers have also been killed in this operation (March 18, 1989).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: On March 19: Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made aircraft with anti-aircraft guns while it bombarding Mujahideen positions near Qalat Ghilzai.

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: On February 24: Mujahideen fire rockets on the 15th Brigade headquarters and Bala Hissar.

On February 28: Mujahideen attacked an army camp at the "crossing" of 'Ghazni Road'. Two armoured vehicles were destroyed and a truck captured along with other items of arms and ammunition. Four Mujahideen were also killed in this encounter.

Three 'wireless' officers of the regime army cross over and join Mujahideen (somewhere) in Ghazni province.

BBC: We talked to Habibullah, the Commander of Hizb-e-Islami (Maulvi Khalis) in Kama Uleswali in Ghazni province regarding the situation in his area. He said:

Habibullah: Fighting is going on in our area. The morale of the Mujahideen is very high and those of Communists very low (Current

Affairs—Pushto: March 7, 1989).

The Soviet News Agency TASS says the rebel forces in Afghanistan have launched heavy attacks on the cities of Gardez, Ghazni and Khost in south of Kabul and on Kunduz in the north near the border with the Soviet Union.

The agency said the cities have been hit by artillery fire and that many civilians have been killed (News—English: March 22, 1989).

Radio Kabul: Similarly as a result of the clash between extremists and the armed forces of the country in the outskirts of Ghazni city, three Afghan soldiers were injured. Situation in other provinces of the country is reported to be normal (News—Pushto: March 13, 1989).

In Ghazni, the courageous armed forces killed thirteen terrorists, while in Herat province, fourteen were killed and many others injured when the security forces shelled their positions with heavy guns (March 21, 1989).

Pravda: On Kabul-Ghazni highway, extremists burned down a bus. Five passengers were killed (March 13, 1989).

Paktika

Nil report from all sources, signifying the absence of Kabul regime forces in the province.

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: On February 24: Mujahideen carry out 'combined' attacks on regime security post south of the besieged city of Khost.

On February 25: seven 'sepoys' of a security post manned by police desert and join the Mujahideen near Khost.

On February 26: Mujahideen seize some misplaced drops parachuted to the besieged garrison in the Khost cantonment. Troops in Khost cantonment fired on Mujahideen positions with heavy arms. Eleven Mujahideen were killed and 38 injured. Over 50 regime soldiers were believed to have been killed in these exchanges.

On March 3: Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments in Matun and Jaji Maidan areas.

On March 6: Mujahideen attack regime troops and establishments in Matun, Jaji Maidan and Nadir Shah Kot areas.

A transport aircraft coming in to land at Khost airfield was shot down with a missile.

On March 11: Mujahideen carry out 'combined' attacks on Gardez city. Atleast 24 soldiers were killed. Some other deserted to join Mujahideen ranks.

Regime troops and establishments were attacked in Jaji Maidan and Matun areas.

On March 17 and 18: Mujahideen attack regime troops and establishments in Jaji Maidan and Matun areas.

On March 20 and 21: Mujahideen clashed with regime troops in Matun. More than 50 regime troops were killed and wounded, and a number of their guns and transport vehicles destroyed.

On March 26, 27 and 29: Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments in Matun, Jaji Maidan and Nadir Shah Kot areas taking a heavy toll of men and materials.

VIRA: In Paktiya province, twenty-five civilians were killed and forty others injured in a land mine explosion last month. These mines were planted by the Najibullah regime. A report was recently circulated in the United Nations which said that the Communist troops have planted about thirty million mines in Afghanistan (News—Pushto: March 1, 1989).

Various reports quoting the Afghan Mujahideen information sources say that following the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan a large number of Indian military advisers and pilots are cooperating with the Kabul Communist regime.

The Mujahideen say their positions in the outskirts of Khost were presumably bombarded by the Indian pilots (News—Persian: March 6, 1989).

Radio Tehran: Meanwhile, the Afghan Mujahideen have destroyed a Kabul regime Radio Station in Khost city of Paktiya province.

Another report from Afghanistan says that the Kabul regime forces have heavily bombed the areas near the Khost city during the last month (News—Pushto: March 2, 1989).

BBC: We had telephonic interviews in the Afghan Information Centre in Peshawar regarding the latest developments in Afghanistan. First, we asked Maulvi Juma Muhammad, the Commander of Ittehad-e-Islami (Sayyaf group) in Khost area to give us information regarding the fighting in the area.

Juma Muhammad: The Afghan Mujahideen are continuing their operations in Khost. The Mujahideen have recently captured Zamanti and other posts in the area. We had convened a Shoora in the recent past in order to launch offensive on Khost. By the grace of Allah Almighty Jalalabad and Khost will fall to the Mujahideen very soon.

Compere: Which groups or organizations are included in the Shoora?

Juma Muhammad: By the grace of Almighty Allah, all the Mujahideen in Khost area enjoy complete unity in their ranks. The Commanders of all the Mujahideen groups were included in the Shoora.

Compere: Is the supply of foodstuff reaching Khost and its surrounding areas?

Juma Muhammad: The aircraft cannot land in this area. Earlier they used to land secretly during night, but for the last two months they are unable to do so.

VOA: Our Peshawar based correspondent, Syed Fazle Akbar has interviewed Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani, a prominent Mujahideen Commander in Paktiya province. Here are excerpts of the interview:—

Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani said that only Khost and Gardez are in the control of the government in this province and both those areas have been under the tight siege of the Mujahideen for a long time. Commander Haqqani said that even aircraft cannot land in Khost at present and the Kabul regime is supplying material and equipment to its besieged troops by parachutes. Maulvi Haqqani said that the Afghan Mujahideen have captured a large number of government posts in Rag Khwani, Barri, Darwazgai and Sarakai areas and similarly Mujahideen are tightening their siege. Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani said that Mujahideen are very effectively utilizing the tanks which they captured from the Soviets. Besides, they are also using artillery during attacks on government installations. The Commander said that the enemy in this area is in a miserable condition. Maulvi Haqqani went on to say that the people in Khost are facing grave shortage of supplies, but the Mujahideen have made arrangements for them. Commander Haqqani said that under special arrangements, foodstuff and other essential goods would be supplied to the people living in government controlled areas in Khost. He said that the situation is also deteriorating in Gardez because of the siege of the Mujahideen. He added that Mujahideen have also made arrangements to supply foodstuff to the people of Gardez. Maulvi Haqqani said that Mujahideen do not want the civilians to suffer and that is why they avoid attacks on these cities. He went on to say that now Mujahideen are making efforts to capture these two areas from the government troops by "special tactics." Mr. Haqqani said that the siege of the Mujahideen would destroy war capability of the enemy and would force them to surrender. Mr. Haqqani expressed the hope that Khost and Gardez would fall to the Mujahideen without any loss of life to the citizens in the near future (Commentary—Pushto: March 1, 1989).

Radio Kabul: According to another report the criminal extremists fired heavy weaponsson the residential area and security posts of Khost

city, Jaji Maidan, Por-e-Ghal-e-Ghar Bak, Teri Za'I, Perez, Gorbaz, (Tanay) and Nadir Shah Kot. They injured seven of our innocent compatriots and two houses and three shops were set on fire (March 15, 89).

The Bakhtar news agency has quoted the Afghan armed forces as saying that extremist groups fired heavy weapons on the security posts and residential areas in Gardez city of Paktiya province, but did not cause any casualty. The Afghan armed forces also destroyed seven strongholds of the enemy (March 24, 1989).

The terrorists shelled Khost town in Paktiya province and Kunduz city due to which one soldier was martyred in Kunduz and four civilians were injured (News—Pushto: March 27, 1989).

Radio Moscow: The armed groups of the Afghan opposition fired rockets at the cities of Khost and Herat in the past twenty-four hours and also on population centres in Paktiya province. The Bakhtar news agency says one civilian was killed and six Afghan servicemen wounded. It is also reported that the Government troops have pushed back the armed groups of the opposition in the regions close to the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. More than one hundred and forty extremists were killed when the Afghan army hit at the bases of the rebels in the provinces of Ningarhar, Qandahar and Herat (News—English: March 3, 1989).

Extremists shelled suburbs of Khost and some Sarandoy posts. One soldier was slightly wounded, two children and two women killed (March 12, 1989).

The press in Finland has published articles of journalists who saw many camps of the Afghan opposition extremists on the Pakistani territory.

The paper Ultelkhti writes that the journalists also saw some Pakistani troops there. The paper Ubustad Bladit has pointed out that the Pakistani military units have crossed the border into Afghanistan. The troops whom they talked to at a camp in Khost district said that they belonged to the Pakistan army (News—Urdu-Pushto: March 14, 1989).

Meanwhile, the armed opponents of the Afghan government have heavily shelled residential areas and security posts in Khost city of Paktiya province. Six civilians have been injured in this shelling (News—Pushto: March 18, 1989).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: On March 1: Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions and non-partisan villages in Rodak district. Six jet fighters attacked Hissar Shahi. Another 4 jets bombed Batikot.

On March 2: Thirty regime troops belonging to the 81st Brigade defected and join Mujahideen ranks near Jalalabad city. With the help

of these soldiers, Mujahideen attacked a security post at Lalai, where 13 regime troops were killed and a tank destroyed.

On Marchs3, 4 and 5: Mujahideen belonging to various Alliance groups are seen converging on trails leading to Ghaziabad, Samarkhel and Jalalabad. This indicated they were out to attack Jalalabad.

On March 6: Mujahideen unleash massive attacks on Ghaziabad Farms and Samarkhel cantonment. Apparently the Mujahideen have taken the garrison in Samarkhel by surprize, after occupying a vacant hill-top position overlooking the large cantonment. Samarkhel cantonment was reputed to have large underground storage facilities and heavy gun enplacements. There also was an attached airfield. It had for several years served as central point for Russian troops. From here they had conducted in support (of regime forces) and independent operations in Ningarhar, Kunar and Paktiya provinces.

On March 7: Several hundred regime soldiers and supporters surrendered to the Mujahideen at the Ghaziabad farms. Others bolted on the arrival of Mujahideen ... Civil and military installations and godowns full of consumable goods were mostly taken in tact.

From Ghaziabad, the Mujahideen raced towards Samarkhel, each groups trying with the other to reach there first. The Gilani group, which perhaps had deeper roots in the local soil, was at the head of the invaders. Meanwhile, the Mujahideen who had taken the hill-top feature a day earlier, started an inferno of rocket-missile-rocket fire on Samarkhel. It seemed both the invading Mujahideen and defending regime troops were in danger of annihilation. But whereas the Mujahideen went ahead undaunted, the regime soldiers panicked and ran towards Jalalabad. There was not much of a fight locally at this, supposed to be formidable, Soviet-Kabul strongpoint. Some independent observers wondered if this could be part of a ruse to lure in Mujahideen in large numbers and deal with them in a battle ground of their own choice, as they progressed further towards Jalalabad airport and the new and old Jalalabad cities.

On March 8: Samarkhel fell on the night of 7-8 March. It yielded to the Mujahideen plenty of arms and ammunition, including tanks and heavy guns. The nearby airfield and helipads were also secured and local defences put up against counter-attack before pushing ahead towards the Jalalabad airport.

About 400 regime soldiers who had surrendered in or around Samarkhel were sent back to safer places in the rear.

On March 9: Mujahideen entered the Jalalabad airport and entrenched themselves on some parts of it. The airport became unoperational. Many of the aircraft, which came in to attack Mujahideen in the vicini-

ty of the airport, Samarkhel, Ghaziabad, Hadda, and Behsud actually took off from airfields other than Jalalabad.

Some other contingents of Mujahideen bypassed the airport and took up positions on the fringes, if not actually inside Jalalabad city.

Regime resistance in the immediate neighbourhood of Jalalabad was intense and each and every yard of space the Mujahideen sought to take was bitterly contested. It seemed the Jalalabad garrison had a large proportion of combatants chosen from the "Ruling Party" cadres. Their stakes were infinitely higher.

Both sides, the regime soldiers and Mujahideen suffered heavy casualties in the battle for Jalalabad, which some observers said, was the fierest fighting during all the ten years of the 4th Afghan War.

On March 10: Fighting around Jalalabad forced thousands of local people to abandon their hearts and homes and treck towards Pakistan. They did not go towards Kabul. They felt safer in Pakistan.

As fighting intensifed, Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions constantly. Mostly they used highflying jetengined fighter-bombers, rather than helicopter gunships. Perhaps this was because they feared the Mujahideen had surface-to-air stinger missiles. . In any case, the Mujahideen claimed to have shot down several aircraft.

Since the Jalalabad airfield was under attack and non-operational, some supplies and reinforcements were ferried in by helicopters from directions considered comparatively safer.

On March 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15: Fierce fighting continued around Jalalabad. The civilian population of Jalalabad suffered heavy casualties and loss of business and property in exchange of fire and ground and air bombardment.

Mujahideen increased pressure on the north of Jalalabad from the side of Behsud; but could not break the defence perimetres. They however claimed having downed a number of aircraft near Behsud and elsewhere.

On March 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20: Some sort of stalemate seems to have developed on the Jalalabad front, both sides having dug themselves in. The Mujahideen sought to capitalize on every opportunity to advance forward; but, then the regime troops were fighting from enormously better fortified positions. They also had the advantage of the airpower, tanks and tracked artillery.

It seemed the garrison in Jalalabad had received supplies of weapons and food from Kabul by road. The Mujahideen had not paid much attention to the Jalalabad-Kabul road.

On March 21: Some groups of Mujahideen set on plugging Jalalabad-Kabul highway. ... Their (presumed) strategy to keep it open for

evacuating regime troops from Jalalabad had apparently not worked the way they had intended ...

An important bridge on the Kabul river near Dabeely was damaged by causing some sort of an explosion. Kabul troops guarding the bridge tried to repair the damage. Mujahideen fire on them.

Mujahideen damaged several regime armoured vehicles in the vicinity of Jalalabad.

Some reports said the Mujahideen too were using some captured tanks. In fact, a report emanating from Kabul sources said they had destroyed some tanks being used by the Mujahideen.

On March 21: Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy (somewhere) on the Kabul-Jalalabad road. Five vehicles were destroyed and the rest of the convoy was forced to return on its tracks to Kabul.

On the same day, the Mujahideen launched another 'general attack' on Jalalabad city.

On March 22: A Mujahideen contingent from the neighbouring Kunar province joined the freedom fighters in Ningarhar. In their initial onslaught they captured an important military post at Tangi.

Mujahideen also captured a military post at Bersal. Here they destroyed 2 tanks.

On March 24 and 25: Mujahideen shot down a helicopter in Surkhrud area. Mujahideen continue to exert pressure on the defences of Jalalabad. In one sector, more than 50 regime soldiers were killed and a large number injured. They also captured some prisoners and arms and ammunition.

On March 26: Gulbadin Hikmatyar, currently on an inspection tour of the battle front, was 'slightly' injured while he was saying his prayers in a mosque in or near Samarkhel.

On March 27: Jalalabad-Kabul highway was blocked by Mujahideen.

On March 28 and 29: Heavy fighting continued in and around Jalalabad airport, Behsud, Darunta and Surkhrud areas.

VIRA: Mujahideen have prepared a plan for attack on Jalalabad city. A Mujahideen source said the Mujahideen have deployed 8,000 persons in the outskirts of Jalalabad city and they plan to launch attack on the city from four sides.

According to these sources, the planes of Communist regime launched aerial operations against Mujahideen positions in the outskirts of Jalalabad city during the last few days (News—Persian: March 8, 89).

Reports say the Mujahideen attack on Jalalabad city entered its second week yesterday. The Mujahideen have captured three positions of the enemy and have shot down one MiG-27 plane of Kabul regime. It was the third plane downed by the Mujahideen in Jalalabad fighting.

Reports reaching Islamabad say that in the clashes the Afghan Mujahideen have succeeded in their attacks on Behsud and Kama areas and in the suburb of Jalalabad city and inflicted heavy losses to enemy positions of Kabul regime troops.

Quoting Mujahideen sources the report says that Jalalabad airport which has changed hands several times during the recent days, and is presently under the control of the Kabul regime forces, has been burnt as a result of heavy attacks by the Mujahideen.

The reports say that rockets fired by the Mujahideen have hit the airport installations and the military installations have been set on fire. About 400 Kabul regime troops who have joined the Afghan Mujahideen attended a press conference in a refugee camp Sunday last.

Afghan Mujahideen source says that another 300 Kabul regime troops who have deserted their units are on their way to Pakistan (News—Persian: March 15, 1989).

Reports from Ningarhar province say in their recent assault on the Kabul regime troops in the outskirts of Jalalabad the Afghan Mujahideen have caused heavy losses to the position of the enemy troops.

Reports say the Kabul regime launched aerial raids as well as fired Scud missiles on the Mujahideen positions.

The Jalalabad airport has been badly damaged in attacks by the Mujahideen as well as bombardment by the Kabul regime planes.

According to the reports the war planes and passenger aircraft cannot land or take off from that airport.

An informations source of Mujahideen said that the Mujahideen have brought about changes in war tactics in the recent clashes in Jalalabad city (News—Persian: March 25, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen, during last night's operations captured Samarkhel garrison, 10 kilometres from Jalalabad city.

Samarkhel was the strategic garrison situated on the route between Kabul and Pakistan border.

No report on the losses inflicted on Kabul government troops has yet been received. However, sources close to Afghan Mujahideen say that several hundred Kabul government troops were arrested.

Quoting AFP, the Central News Unit reports that while the fighting continues for the liberation of Jalalabad city, the Afghan Mujahideen have gained control of the airport of that city this afternoon (News Urdu-Persian: March 8, 1989).

Radio Kabul admitted last night that the Afghan Mujahideen have killed a General of Kabul regime troops during their recent operations in Jalalabad city of Ningarhar province. The deceased General Mukhtar

had his role in mopping-up operations against the Mujahideen and so the Kabul regime called him a hero.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Command of the Afghan Armed Forces in a statement has expressed its deep concern about the victories of the Mujahideen in Ningarhar, Paktiya, Qandahar, Herat, Parwan and Kabul provinces (News—Pushto: March 9, 1989).

According to the UNHCR, about eleven thousand six hundred and sixty one people have registered themselves after fleeing to Pakistan from Jalalabad area of Afghanistan where fighting has been continuing for the past two weeks. The influx of refugees to Pakistan is continuing.

A spokesman for the UNHCR has been quoted as saying that arrangements are being made for the supply of tents and foodstuff to about ten thousand families.

More than three million Afghan refugees are staying in Pakistan (News—Pushto: March 18, 1989).

Radio Zahidan: More than 24 helicopters of Kabul regime's air force have reached Jalalabad on an unknown mission.

Reports say that one of the helicopters was shot down by the Mujahideen who have been trying since March 6 to capture Jalalabad.

It is said that the helicopters have been sent there to evacuate senior officials of the Kabul government and their families from Jalalabad (News—Urdu: March 18, 1989).

BBC: Fighting is reported to be continuing around the Afghan city of Jalalabad between government forces and rebels trying to take the city.

Rebel sources in neighbouring Pakistan say that their men have captured some of the garrisons, south-east of Jalalabad and that fierce fighting has been going on around the city's airport.

An Afghan government official in Kabul is reported to have acknowledged the stepping up of the offensive on Jalalabad (News—English: March 8, 1989).

There are conflicting reports from both the sides about the fighting around eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad between the government forces and the Afghan Mujahideen. Zairco Bodenivich recently visited the area. Here is his report:

> At the moment, only this much is clear that fighting is going on at several strategic places around Jalalabad. According to Mujahideen sources, the military garrison of Samarkhel has come under their control, though an important commander, Abdul Haq has denied this. Most of the areas around the city are under the control of the Mujahideen. It, therefore, seems difficult that the supply reaches the government forces in the city through land

route. Jalalabad airport is, therefore, very much significant for both the sides. There are reports of fierce fighting around the airport. Among the Afghan guerilla groups who are engaged in fighting around the city of Jalalabad, the Hezb-e-Islami of Maulvi Younus Khalis is the strongest one. But local commanders say that reinforcements can be called from other places also. It is quite possible that this might be happening now. Despite this still there are difficulties and problems for the Mujahideen. The areas around Jalalabad are plain which are full of mines. Moreover, it is said that the Soviet troops have left a huge quantity of arms in the city. The city can thus be strongly defended. The Mujahideen have also to be careful because there are large number of civilians in the city.

At the time of my departure, I saw that civilians were getting out of the city and the Mujahideen were trying their best to allow them to leave the city.

If Jalalabad falls to the Mujahideen, the question will arise what Kabul or the Soviet Union itself will do to create difficulties in the way of the interim government which is formed there. Will they try to retake the city?

The local commanders, whom I talked to, were worried about the retaliatory action of the Soviet Union in the western and northern areas of the country. They thought that the Soviet Union could provide air support in any retaliatory attack. The Kabul government can also make use of Scud missiles.

But I have seen the Mujahideen and I don't think these actions will be able to weaken their determination (Sairbeen—Urdu: March 10, 1989).

As reports of heavy bombardment by Afghan guerillas on an area around Kabul airport are pouring in, the army says it is still fighting rebels in the east of the country. A spokesman for the Afghan military council, Lt. General Abdul Haq Uloomi says the army has repulsed rebel attacks and has sent in more troops to defend the area around the strategically important Jalalabad. Liz Ducet reports from Kabul:

> Lt. General Uloomi didn't mince his words. The offensive around Jalalabad had been crushed, he said. Afghan Air Force, artillery and infantry units had repulsed attacks in the eastern region. He denied reports that the guerillas had captured some posts, adding that they were forced to retreat in some areas. But the General admitted that fighting continued and said more government troops were sent over land from Kabul. This battle, he said, has already cost more lives and material losses than any other combat in the nearly ten-year-old war. He gave no figures for casualties in his ranks. More than two thousand guerillas had died, he said. Some of them were said to be Pakistanis. The General emphasised that civilians had suffered greatly. But he conceded that large numbers had fled the area to escape the Government's aerial bombing. This war will end, he decalred, once the guerillas and foreign troops stop their attacks. If they didn't, it would have to continue until their complete annihilation. I warn you, he said, we still haven't used all the reserves and weapons at our disposal.

According to the General, fourteen thousand guerillas participated in the offensive which began last Sunday. Three thousand were said to be Pakistanis. He again refused to put a number on his troops, but emphasised that a great number of women and children had been bravely guarding Jalalabad's defence.

The General said, there had been fighting close to the important garrison of Samarkhel, about 12 miles south of Jalalabad. But he said the attacks have been repulsed. As for the airport, he said, it was still operational and the guerillas never got close to it. Asked whether troop reinforcements had been sent to other cities in anticipation of further guerilla offensives General Uloomi said each area had sufficient resources. He said, he didn't expect the guerillas to launch new attack after what he described as the lesson taught to them in Jalalabad (News Desk English: March 11, 1989).

VOA: Both the Government of Afghanistan and opposition Mujahideen forces Friday report major fighting for control of the key eastern city of Jalalabad, VOA's correspondent reports from Islamabad. Mujahideen forces say they destroyed a bridge linking Jalalabad with the capital city of Kabul.

The Mujahideen say Afghan forces tried but failed on Thursday to reopen the highway between the capital and Jalalabad. The Mujahideen also say they destroyed a bridge near the town of Serobi which is about half way between Jalalabad and Kabul and claimed to have destroyed an Afghan tank killing three soldiers and wounding twelve others in the battle. The resistance forces say they used rocket-launchers to shoot down an Afghan helicopter which the Mujahideen said was on a bombing mission north of the Kabul river. The Peshawar-based Afghan Islamic Press Agency said twenty-five government helicopters managed to land at Jalalabad Friday and are believed to have transported food supplies, ammunition and possibly soldiers to the beleaguered city. Afghan Radio Friday reports that extensive attacks occurred around Jalalabad since Thursday. It said ten government soldiers were wounded (Radio Reports—English: March 24, 1989).

Radio Australia: About thirty thousand Afghan refugees are re-

ported to have reached Pakistan after fleeing from the fighting around the embattled city of Jalalabad where government forces have been under attack from Mujahideen guerillas. Rebel sources in Peshawar said hundreds of refugees had died while attempting to reach safer places. The French News Agency 'AFP' quotes truck drivers as saying the road leading East from Jalalabad to the Pakistan border is crowded with refugees. Pakistani officials say it is the biggest influx of refugees for several years. Thousands of people began fleeing last week when Mujahideen launched the major offensive against Jalalabad. AFP says fighting has been particularly fierce around the city's airport and casualties have been heavy on both sides. Travellers say the Afghan army has burnt down several villages in the Jalalabad region.

A Spanish journalist who was with rebel forces outside Jalalabad last Thursday and Friday said the Afghan airforce had carried out seventy-six attacks on rebel positions in twenty-seven hours (News—English: March 13, 1989).

All India Radio: Today's newspapers have highlighted a PTI report from Kabul that Kabul troops have foiled a big offensive of the Afghan rebels in the outskirts of Jalalabad. According to a report of the Kabul Television the Afghan rebels sustained heavy casualties during the operation. The Kabul TV said that some ten thousand Afghan rebels launched a big rocket and short range missile attack on a town, Samarkhel, thirty kilometres from Jalalabad. However, it was foiled by the Kabul troops. Samarkhel is located along a road which leads to Khyber Pass. The report says that now the situation in Jalalabad is under full control of the government troops.

Meanwhile, a TIME OF INDIA report says that hectic activity was witnessed throughout the day at the Kabul airport. According to the report the Mujahideen also fired some rockets on the Kabul airport (AIR, Jahan-Numa: March 9, 1989).

The Daily "Hindustan Times" carries a detailed report by its correspondent from Kabul saying that three cities are under severe attack by Afghan Mujahideen at present. The report adds though Mujahideen have been mounting massive attack on Jalalabad for the last two weeks yet all their attempts have been foiled. Reports reveal that the fierce fighting is contining around Jalalabad airport. During the last forty-eight hours nearly twelve thousand rockets and shells have been dropped at the airport. The correspondent quotes a Kabul government spokesman as having said that so far Afghan Mujahideen have been successful only in destroying some installations at the airport but they have not yet succeeded in breaking defence line around the airport (AIR, March 21, 1989).

Pakistani authorities are reported to have instructed Afghan rebels to capture Jalalabad by tomorrow.

Radio Moscow said the rebels' offensive to seize Jalalabad began on the fifth of this month and Pakistani troops are fighting alongwith the rebels.

Meanwhile, Kabul Radio says the government troops have repulsed a major rebel attack on Jalalabad. It said more than two hundred rebels were killed in the attack.

The Radio also said that nineteen Afghan refugee women were killed when they clashed with Pakistani militiamen at a Khyber Pass border outpost.

The women were agitating for information about the fate of their menfolk in the rebel offensive on Jalalabad. They were fired upon when they marched towards the besieged Ningarhar provincial city and stoned the border post.

It was for the third time in the last one week that women and children in refugee camps held demonstrations seeking to know the whereabouts of their men (AIR, News—English: March 25, 1989).

Reports say a Minister in the Interim Government of the Pakistan based Afghan rebels has been injured as heavy fighting raged around the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Peshawar based rebel sources reported that the Minister Engineer Hikmatyar was injured when a bomb emploded near a mosque where he was praying last night.

The sources said earlier in the day Hikmatyar had a narrow escape when the Afghan Air Force bombarded the Haider Farm area.

Government troops are reported to have halted another bid by the rebels to capture Jalalabad killing over one hundred of them. The Air Force dealt heavy blows on the rebel formations while helicopters dropped supplies into the beleaguered city. However rebels claimed that they have captured a strategic point south of the city (AIR, News—English: March 26, 1989).

The spokesman claimed that renewed armoured attacks by rebels on Jalalabad city from two sides were repulsed by Government forces.

More than thirty rebels were killed in these encounters and a large number of weapons including multi-barrel launchers were seized.

Reports from Jalalabad say that a large number of houses, mosques and schools have been damaged in rebel attacks (AIR, News—English: March 27, 1989).

Radio Kabul: A spokesman of the Afghan armed forces has said that Afghan Armed Forces units are countering with high morale and spirit the joint attacks of the armed extremist groups and Pakistani

Armed Forces in Ningarhar province . The Afghan Armed Forces, are defending the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

The military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the extremist groups with the direct support of Pakistani Commandos and Militia using heavy weapons have attacked the suburban areas and security posts in the out skirts of Jalalabad city.

According to the report these attacks are supervised by the military advisers of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and some other countries.

According to another report, at about 3.20 p.m. today four Pakistan military helicopters entered the Ghaziabad area and after unloading foreign military advisers and arms and ammunition flew back to Pakistan. The report adds that the extremists supported by Pakistan, are not refraining from committing inhuman crimes in Afghanistan. They fired guided missiles and other heavy weapons at the residential areas of Jalalabad. So far no report about loss of men or material has been received.

According to a fresh report from Ningarhar province, the Afghan armed forces have started a big counter attack. As a result of the operation supported by the Air Force, 415 attackers were killed and 350 others were injured and fifteen positions of the extremists and foreign aggressors were destroyed. In the operation fourteen personnel of the Afghan armed forces were martyred and eighteen others were injured.

A spokesman of the Armed Forces has told Bakhtar news agency that during the past four days, extremists' and Pakistan troops' casualties at the hand of the Afghan armed forces have reached two thousand (March 10, 1989).

Baluch, Pashtoon and Afghan refugees must know that Pakistan and USA both are deviating from Geneva Accords. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto has no power to control these Generals. They want to continue bloodshed. The people of Pakistan, specially Baluchs and Pashtoons should know that the time has come for their unity. They must not allow the Generals of Pakistan to set their country on fire (Talk Baluchi: March 20, 1989).

A reliable source of the Afghan Air Force and Air Defence has reported to the Bakhtar news agency that aircraft of Afghan Air Force destroyed seven supply caravans of the enemy during yesterday's operations in Ningarhar and Kunar provinces. These caravans, shifting a large quantity of arms and ammunition and other military equipment from the Pakistani military depots along the border to different areas of Kunar and Ningarhar provinces were destroyed after they came under the air raids in Yasin Bab, Khewa, Shega, Dari Noor and Ghaziabad

areas of Ningarhar province and Nawagai and Asadabad areas of Kunar province.

Reports from these areas say most of the caravans were sent by the 11th and 18th Divisions of Pak Army. The reports add that a large quantity of the enemy weapons were destroyed in raids by the Afghan Air Force (News—Pushto: March 24, 1989).

We laud and respect the courageous people of Ningarhar who are boldly resisting the cowardly attacks of the enemy for the past fourteen days. We salute to Ningarhar which is foiling the missile and rocket attacks of the enemy and the US Mujahideen. It is the spirit of 'Afghaniat' of the people of Jalalabad which has defeated the enemy and foiled the nefarious designs of US imperialists, Pakistani Generals and Saudi Wahabis. The people of Afghanistan salute to the soil of Ningarhar and say that it is not only the garland of flowers but it is also the land of eagles.

The US imperialists, Pakistani Generals and Saudi Wahabis and terrorists of dollars who call themselves Mujahideen, tried their utmost and used every kind of sophisticated weapons to capture Jalalabad, but the heroic sons of Afghanistan foiled their attempts and converted the soil of Ningarhar into a graveyard of these terrorists and their supporters. The Punjabis and Wahabis were not perhaps aware that Afghanistan is a land which even the Britishers could not capture. The bones of many British soldiers are still burried in Ningarhar. The grave of British General Eiphinston is also located in Ningarhar where the terrorists backed by the Pakistani forces have met a humiliating defeat. We, all the sons of Afghanistan promise that like the people of Ningarhar we will never allow any one to cast an evil look on our sacred land and our ancient nation (Talk—Pushto: March 27, 1989).

Radio Moscow: In Afghanistan, armed opposition units are advancing to the city of Jalalabad, seventy kilometres from the Pakistani border. A spokesman of the Afghan government has said in a Reuters interview, the garrison of the city is a target of an attack from the rebels. The offensive, he pointed out, is being backed by Pakistan. The Government spokesman also said that Herat and Gardez, among other population centres, had come under missile fire.

Government troops have struck at rebel bases in the provinces of Parwansand Qandahar. One more ammunition dump has been discovered in the capital city, Kabul.

Meanwhile, the lower House of the Afghan Parliament has drawn the attention of the United Nations Secretary General to gross violation of the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan by the United States and Pakistan. A message addressed to Perez de Cuellar points out that Washing-

ton and Islamabad are continuing to interfere in Afghan affairs by rendering military aid to the Afghan Opposition. The continuation of the warfare, the message says, leads to escalate bloodshed, increase the number of casualties, ruin the economy and build up tension in the region (News—English: March 8, 1989).

Afghan troops have been repelling fierce attacks by irreconcilable opposition units on Jalalabad.

A Government spokesman reported in Kabul on Wednesday that Pakistan has been actively helping the extremists. The Afghan Foreign Ministry has protested to Pakistan over an act of direct aggression against Afghanistan. On Wednesday dawn five Pakistani air force helicopters landed opposition troops and a large quantity of arms near Ghaziabad in Afghanistan (News—English: March 8, 1989).

Reports from Kabul say that Kabul government troops are bravely defending all posts in Jalalabad. Contingents of the armed opposition have suffered heavy losses in Jalalabad fighting. During the last three days one thousand five hundred rebels were killed. Our correspondent Alexander Shakirandov reports from Kabul that rebels deliberately leave behind dead bodies on Afghan soil simply not to create panic and unrest in their camps in Pakistan. Large scale of losses have demoralized armed opposition. Now their attacks have subsided to a great extent. However, prediction about the complete failure of Mujahideen's attack on Jalalabad will be premature. Pakistani advisers extend all help to rebels in their operation on Jalalabad. Rebels are firing rockets on sacred places of worships. For instance, another mosque was made target of rocket attack in Jalalabad on March 19. However the march of two division Pak military men towards Jalalabad proves that Islamabad is taking keen interest for the fall of Jalalabad to Mujahideen. Speaking about Pakistan's active involvement in Afghanistan's fighting a spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry said rebel's defeat in Jalalabad fighting was totally unexpected for both planners of Pakistan Army and extremists. Afghan rebels are forcing inhabitants of captured parts of Ningarhar province to join their ranks. Besides, they are recruiting young people from the camps based in Pakistan. The Soviet spokesman described Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan's war as flagrant violation of Geneva Accords. The spokesman further pointed out that the decision of the Islamic Conference Organization of allocating seat to Mujahideen will not prove helpful for peaceful settlement of Afghanistan problem (Sada-e-Imroz: March 21, 1989).

The situation in the Afghan city of Jalalabad has attracted attention of the world public opinion. A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the offensive of extremist Opposition on Jalalabad has practically come to a halt. In this connection, the Soviet official accused the military circles of Islamabad of openly interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Moscow Radio's observer, Alexander Bativ writes:

Examples of such interference are well-known. Recently, two Pakistani terrorists informed a press conference in Kabul about Pakistan's terrorism against neighbouring Afghanistan. The press conference was covered by the American magazine, the NEWSWEEK which may be charged of having special sympathies with Afghanistan. The foreign journalists in Islamabad have frequently reported that Pakistan's Militia and regular army units are helping Mujahideen in their war activities. In this connection, the Afghan President, Najibullah, in an interview to BBC, said that Pakistan's military activities against Afghanistan show that inspite of signing the Geneva Accords, Pakistan was openly violating them. Such activities are a cause of grave concern. The Afghan leader said that Pakistan should consider the consequences of such activities (Asian Events—Urdu: March 25, 1989).

Kunar

Radio Kabul: A reliable source of the Afghan Air Force and Air Defence has reported to the Bakhtar news agency that aircraft of Afghan Air Force destroyed seven supply caravans of the enemy during yesterday's operations in Ningarhar and Kunar provinces. These caravans shifting a large quantity of arms and ammunition and other military equipment from the Pakistani military depots along the border to different areas of Kunar and Ningarhar provinces were destroyed after they came under the air raids in Yasin Bab, Khewa, Shega, Dari Noor and Ghaziabad areas of Ningarhar province and Nawagai and Asadabad areas of Kunar province.

Reports from the aforesaid areas say most of the caravans were sent by the 11th and 18th Divisions of Pakistan Army. The reports add that a large quantity of the enemy weapons were destroyed in raids by the Afghan Air Force (News—Pushto: March 24, 1989).

Nooristan

Nil report from all sources, signifying the absence of Kabul regime forces in the newly created province.

Provinces Bordering Sovier Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: On March 3: Mujahideen have besieged the provincial capital Faizabad.

VIRA: Western diplomats said last Tuesday that thousands of Kabul regime troops joined the ranks of Mujahideen following the completion of Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. Sources said these troops joined the Afghan Mujahideen in Takhar and Badakhshan provinces. The sources added that these troops brought huge quantities of arms and ammunition with them (News—Persian: March 3, 1989).

Radio Kabul: According to another report from Badakhshan province, during the successful military operations of the Afghan Armed Forces in Darwaz Uleswali, seventeen extremists were killed and thirteen others were injured (March 30, 1989).

Takhar

Radio Tehran: An official of Harkat-e-Islami Afghanistan has said that about ten thousand Afghan military and para-military personnel have joined the ranks of Muslim freedom fighters in the northern provinces of Afghanistan during the last three weeks. Reporting this to the Islamic News Agency last evening, he said that these troops handed over all their arms and equipment to the commanders of Mujahideen. These included forty-one armoured vehicles, ten thousand klashnikovs and other modern weapons (News—Urdu-Pushto: March 10, 1989).

Radio Kabul: In a clash which took place between the Gulbadin and Rabbani extremist groups in Iskamesh district of Takhar province, 15 men of Rabbani and 8 of Gulbadin were killed. Fierce clashes continue among the hostile groups (March 11, 1989).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: On March 11: Mujahideen clashed with Kabul regime forces (somewhere) in the vicinity of Kunduz city. Atleast 8 regime troops were killed. Mujahideen seized a 'heavy' gun, a mortar and 27 rifles.

On March 12: Mujahideen clashed with Kabul regime forces near a Mujahideen 'centre' near Kunduz city. Mujahideen killed several regime soldiers and capture 26 of them along with a quantity of weapons.

On March 29: Mujahideen attacked a regime security post at Chamchaq Jar near Kunduz. The contingent guarding the security post surrendered to Mujahideen.

Radio Kabul: The armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan has dealt heavy blows on the extremist elements in the past 24 hours. Such retaliatory operations were carried out in the provinces of Ningarhar, Kunduz, and Herat killing one hundred and forty extremists and wounding a number of others. The government detachments have also seized from these elements, mortars, machineguns and other weapons

(News—English: March 4, 1989).

In Kunduz, four terrorists were killed, three others injured and two captured alive by the security forces in Sher Khan Bandar. Meanwhile, a group of opponents has joined the process of national reconciliation in that province (March 5, 1989).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: On February 26: Mujahideen ransacked an army camp near Pul-e-Khomri after a day's fierce fighting. Atleast 20 regime soldiers, including a battalion commander were killed. The rest of them fled or were captured. Mujahideen claimed to have seized 2 tanks, 12 trucks, 5 tractors and an assortment of weapons.

On March 4: Two Soviet-made Scud missiles were fired into Andarab valley. One of them hit Rashidi village in Qasan killing 25 persons and destroying 4 houses. The other landed on a deserted hillock.

On March 7: Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments in the Karkar and Zaghal Sang areas. A military convoy coming from the Soviet Union was also attacked. Mujahideen captured 11 trucks.

On March 13: Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments in Hasantall district, destroying 3 security posts and 5 tanks. Atleast 70 regime soldiers were killed.

On March 16: Mujahideen ambushed regime troops (somewhere) in Baghlan province.

On March 24-25: Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Baghlan city and on the Salang highway.

On March 26: Mujahideen clashed with regime troops on the Hairatan-Kabul Highway (somewhere) near Pul-e-Khumri. Traffic on the highway was interrupted. Soviet-made aircraft attacked Mujahideen on the Salang Highway.

Radio Tehran: The Mujahideen besieged a base and five military posts near Pul-e-Khumri city in Baghlan province in last week of February and also killed twenty troops of Afghan regime. Two tanks, twelve trucks, five tractors and a large quantity of arms were also seized by the Mujahideen during the operation (News—Urdu: March 8, 1989).

Radio Kabul: In another operation in Baghlan province, the security forces captured a huge quantity of arms, including mortars and machine gun ammunition (March 14, 1989).

Kabul Times: An armed opposition group attached to criminal group of Gulbadin, busy in looting and robbing in related area of Baghlan province was suppressed in an operation carried out by armed forces of the country.

In this operation the ringleader of the group namely Abdul Ahmad was killed.

According to another report as a result of armed infighting between two ringleaders of Gulbadin group, which took place in related areas of Baghlan province, Sayed Faqer and Sayed Yousuf heads of the armed group were killed (March 9, 1989).

A large quantity of arms and ammunition as well as several strongholds of the extremists were destroyed during mopping-up operations carried out on Sunday in Baghlan (March 14, 1989).

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: On March 18: Mujahideen attacked Mirza Kotal, a strongpoint held by regime troops. In the exchange of fire a tank was hit. The commander of Mujahideen raiding party, Hasan Khan was also killed.

Kabul Times: Twenty-six extremists were killed and several injured when their concentration centres in Angurbagh area of Kholm district were brought under powerful blows by the armed forces.

According to another report, as a result of the infightings between the extremist groups which took place in Deh Maqsoud area of Dara-e-Souf district, 16 men of the hostile groups were killed (March 11, 89).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: On February 23: More than 100 militiamen, headed by one Abdullah Padarwatan, joined Mujahideen (somewhere) in Balkh province.

On March 3: Mujahideen attacked a military convoy travelling from Mazar-i-Sharif to Samawaht Safid. Two oil tankers were blasted.

On March 4: Mujahideen attacked and destroyed a regime security post in the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif. Six Kabuli soldiers killed.

On March 17: Mujahideen ambushed regime troops (somewhere) in Balkh province, killing 4 and injuring 8 soldiers. Four vehicles were destroyed.

VIRA: A report from Balkh province says that the Mujahideen have carried out a number of successful operations against the Kabul regime troops. Besides destroying several military and communication centres of Kabul regime the Mujahideen have also killed seventeen Kabul regime troops and captured seven others. Three Mujahideen were martyred and several others injured in these operations (News—Pushto: March 1, 1989).

The Afghan Mujahideen also fired rockets on military installations in Mazar-i-Sharif the headquarters of Balkh province during the last few

days. According to a Reuter report the Kabul troops have strengthened their military positions in the city close to the Soviet border (News—Persian: March 10, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have fired several missiles on the military installations in Mazar-i-Sharif city of Balkh province (News—Pushto: March 7, 1989).

BBC: Liz Ducet who recently visited Mazar-i-Sharif the capital of Balkh province sent this report from Kabul:—

> New roads have been constructed around Mazar-i-Sharif. Trenches have been built along these roads. Soldiers guard these roads round the clock. Afghan officers say that these measures were taken as a precaution. The Afghan Mujahideen last year captured the cities of Kunduz and Kunar. Afghan Mujahideen have rarely attacked Mazar-i-Sharif.
>
> Last Friday three rockets fell on the city. But there was no casualty. On being asked about these rocket attacks, the residents of the city said that they were astonished at these rocket attacks, because they did not believe that the Mujahideen were so close to the city. But most people denounced these attacks. Even in the Hazrat Ali mosque this attack was condemned during Friday prayers. Some people at the congregation however, said they did not know who fired these rockets.
>
> The Commander of the Army Garrison of the city, Major Abdul Rahman said that following the rocket attack by the Mujahideen the Government forces fired twenty rockets in retaliation. He said that the guerillas fired these rockets from a distance of nearly fifty kilometres (Sairbeen Urdu: March 6, 1989).

VOG: The Afghan Mujahideen have launched an attack on a provincial capital near the Soviet border in the north of Afghanistan. However, representative of the Mazar-i-Sharif city of Balkh province has announced that nobody was injured in the attack. The Mujahideen attacked the targets of the government troops for the first time in this area (News—Urdu: March 6, 1989).

Radio Kabul: Two opposition armed groups welcoming the national reconciliation policy announced their decision to abandon anti-government activities in Balkh province (News—Urdu: March 4, 89).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: On February 24: Mujahideen attacked a security post in the provincial headquarters, killing 8 Kabuli troops.

On March 2: More than 300 militiamen joined the Mujahideen bringing with them large quantities of arms and ammunition. The defec-

ting soldiers belonged to battalion stationed in Aqcha city. Among them were 10 officers. They brought with them the following items:

1. Armoured cars — 2
2. Trucks and Jeeps — 8
3. D-30 Artillery pieces — 2
4. Mortars — 4
5. Heavy machine guns — 30
6. Radio Sets — 8
7. Light weapons — 300
8. Large quantities of ammunition and foodstuff.

VIRA: Three officers and 300 troops of the Kabul regime alongwith huge quantity of arms recently surrendered to the Afghan Mujahideen in the headquarters of Aqchah sub-division in Jozjan province (News—Persian: March 23, 1989).

IRNA: Three Afghan officers alongwith 300 pro-government militiamen defected to the Mujahideen at 'Aqchah' Governorate in Jozjan province last week (IRNA: March 18, 1989).

Kabul Times: An armed opposition group recently joined national reconciliation process, in Jozjan province.

The military section of BIA reports, the group consisting of twelve men, was equipped with heavy and light arms.

The group was welcomed warmly and the leader of the group representing the others, promised the readiness of the group for every devotion in maintaining peace and security in the country. In a house-check and a mopping-up operation carried out in the areas related to Jozjan province one extremist element along with one Dashaka and its hundreds of catridges was arrested by the security forces (KT: March 4, 1989).

Radio Moscow: One opposition group, numbering twelve men, announced a ceasefire and volunteered to cross over to the government side in Jozjan province. Some reports mentioned clashes between opposition groups, standing on different political platforms, in the provinces of Balkh, Lughman and Jozjan. In one province alone nearly thirty people have died in the fighting over the past twenty-four hours (March 1, 1989).

Sar-e-Pul

Mujahideen sources: On March 25: Mujahideen attacked Kabul troops (somewhere) in Sar-e-Pul province, killing 16 of them.

Kabul Times: Twenty extremists were killed and their six trenches destroyed in an operation conducted by the armed forces in Sar-e-Pul province. Similarly two servicemen of the armed forces were martyred

in this operation (KT: March 27, 1989).

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: On March 5: Mujahideen attacked troops in the provincial headquarters, Maimana city. Five regime soldiers were killed.

On March 12: Mujahideen blasted an armoured vehicle in Maimana.

BBC: The Mujahideen, based in northern parts of the country claim that they have surrounded the largest city of Maimana in Faryab province. They say they have over-run eighteen enemy posts in the area. Eight Mujahideen were killed and thirty wounded when the enemy aircraft bombed their positions in the area. The local Field Commanders have also sent a congratulatory message to the Peshawar-based Afghan opposition alliance on getting representation in the Islamic Conference Organisation (Sairbeen—Urdu: March 17, 1989).

Radio Kabul: In Faryab, a fourteen member armed group led by one Eisa joined the process of national reconciliation in Qaisar Uleswali. In Farah twenty-six terrorists have been killed and twenty others injured while the security forces have captured a huge quantity of arms from them (News—Pushto: March 5, 1989).

Badghis

Mujahideen sources: On February 27: Over 200 Kabul regime troops defected to Mujahideen in Qadis sub-division. They brought along 3,900 light weapons, 4 machineguns, ammunition and 12 trucks.

On March 4: Mujahideen consolidated their position in Qadis sub-division after 'combined' operations against Kabul regime troops.

Radio Kabul: In Badghis province, six extremists were killed and five others injured during the Armed Forces operations in that province (March 1, 1989).

Kabul Times: Ten extremists were eliminated and five others wounded in mopping-up operations in Ankhorma and Karez Soofi areas here (KT: March 2, 1989).

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat

Mujahideen sources: On February 25: Militia commander Zia Khan defect to the Mujahideen with 40 men at Kariz Sufi, 2 KM west of Herat city. Mujahideen attacked 4 security posts along eastern fringes of Herat city. Two tanks destroyed.

On March 2: Approximately 500 Kabul regime militiamen joined

Mujahideen in the suburbs of Herat. Fierce fighting continued around Herat city. Soviet-made war planes bombed Mujahideen positions in western suburbs of Herat city. An aeroplane coming in from Shindand to bombard Mujahideen was shot down near Herat city.

On March 9: Mujahideen continue attacking regime security positions and continue clashes around Shindand airbase south of Herat. Fighting also continued on Herat-Qandahar and Herat-Torghundi roads where traffic remained suspended for the time being.

On March 14: Mujahideen launched coordinated attacks on Herat city which had been besieged by Mujahideen. Mujahideen were increasing pressure on the Anjeel district, south of Herat city, and the Airport. Warplanes operating in Herat therefore take off from Shindand airbase and not the Herat airport.

On March 18: Mujahideen storm and capture two army security posts in Karakh sub-division. Mujahideen also capture the Salma Dam project area. The booty included 4 tanks, sixteen jeeps, 170 trucks, 4 mortars and 200 klashnikov rifles. They also seized a godown full of rice.

On March 20-21: Mujahideen carry out combined attacks on regime troops and establishments in and around Herat city.

On March 25: Mujahideen attacked military transport on Herat-Islam Qila road.

On March 29: Mujahideen ambush a Kabul regime army patrol unit between Herat city and Herat airport. Two tanks were hit with rockets. In another attack in the same general area they captured a number of tanks. About 50 regime soldiers were taken prisoner.

VIRA: Reports from Herat province say that Afghan Mujahideen inflicted heavy loss to the Kabul troops in men and material in Ghorian sub-division on the 13th of March. They also captured 180 klashnikovs, four mortar guns, twelve machineguns, four hundred rockets, a huge quantity of bullets of heavy and light weapons, four 6-cylinder vehicles, and various other military hardware. In the battle, five hundred Kabul regime militiamen also surrendered to the Afghan Mujahideen while one Mujahid sustained injuries.

The source of the report adds it is for the first time that such a big victory has been achieved by the Mujahideen in that area (News—Persian: March 24, 1989).

Radio Zahidan: Muslim revolutionaries of Afghanistan shot down a MiG-21 aircraft of Kabul government in Zairkoi area of Shindand in Herat province on Thursday. The pilot of the plane parachuted safely, but Muslim Mujahideen arrested him (News—Urdu: March 6, 1989).

IRNA: In a separate operation on March 15, the Mujahideen took

control of two highways connecting Herat to Sirdel and Torgundi in an attack on Government troops. A large number of Afghan soldiers were killed and wounded and ten tanks destroyed (IRNA: March 18, 1989).

BBC: Another guerilla group of Jamiat-e-Islami said it had captured positions around the western city of Herat and cut off two main roads to the city. It has also said that about three hundred Afghan government troops have deserted the Army in Jozjan province alongwith their arms, ammunition and vehicles.

The guerillas say that they have blocked two major highways between Herat and the Soviet border at Torghundi and between Herat city and the Shindand base. These reports have however, not been confirmed (News—English-Pushto: March 18, 1989).

VOG: In Afghanistan, the attacks on government forces by the Muslim rebels have spread from the east to the west of the country. Indian newspapers quoting senior Afghan officers say, the city of Herat had been shelled from all sides. The resistance fighters are evidently aiming to seize the nearby airbase and cut road links with the Soviet Union (March 7, 1989).

Radio Netherland: The Afghan Government army is engaged in fierce battles with the Mujahideen rebels in western Afghanistan. Indian newspapers, basing their reports on Afghan military sources, say that the city of Herat is under siege. Meanwhile, fighting to gain control of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan continues relentlessly (News—English: March 17, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The extremists fired nine ground-to-ground missiles at the residential areas of Guzara Uleswali of Herat province as a result of which one security official in the area was injured. But in retaliatory firing by the armed forces, five extremists of the Jamiat group were killed and four others were injured (March 13, 1989).

In similar operation in Injeel Uleswali of Herat province, four terrorists, connected with Pakistan, were killed and two others injured when the Afghan security forces shelled their bases.

According to another report, the process of joining army by the Afghan youth is continuing and over three hundred more youth have joined the armed forces during the last twenty four hours (News—Pushto: March 14, 1989).

The warmongering extremists, by firing 160 missiles, recoilless guns and mortar shells on the residential area and security post of Herat city, have once again exposed their ugly features and evil intentions. As a result, two of our compatriots were martyred and another 11 wounded. The Afghan armed forces retaliated and fired on the concentration centres of these warmongers using artillery, air raids, and tank fire as a

result of which seven of these traitors were killed. One rocket launcher, one machinegun and a quantity of other weapons and ammunition were seized by the security forces (Domestic Service in Dari, March 15, 89).

A report from Herat province says that six members of the extremist groups were killed as a result of Afghan artillery firing in the suburbs of Injeel Uleswali (March 24, 1989).

Radio Moscow: The Afghan security forces have foiled several attempts of the Afghan terrorists in Herat province during the past twenty-four hours.

According to the Bakhtar news agency report about forty-three terrorists have been killed and more than forty others injured in these operations (March 18, 1989).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: On March 8: A Soviet-made MiG-27 was shot down with missile (somewhere) in Farah province during a bombing raid on Mujahideen positions.

On March 18: Mujahideen attacked a military convoy between Farahrud and Bakwa. A number of tanks and trucks were hit.

VIRA: In Farah province, Afghan Mujahideen have attacked supply convoys of the enemy in Zanjan and other places and captured Kalakan sub-division.

In the operation three tanks and three armoured personnel carriers of the enemy were destroyed while 26 Kabul troops were killed and 11 others injured.

Similarly, in these operations a number of security posts of the Kabul regime were destroyed and three enemy soldiers were also made captive. Besides a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was also captured by the Afghan Mujahideen (March 3, 1989).

Four hundred officers and men of the Kabul regime surrendered to the Afghan Mujahideen in Farah province last month.

The Mujahideen sources say that these soldiers joined the Mujahideen ranks alongwith a number of vehicles and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition (March 14, 1989).

Radio Kabul: As a result of mopping-up operations by the armed forces in some parts of Farah province, 26 warmongers were killed and 20 were injured. During these operations, 15 boxes of Dashaka's and kalashnikov shells were seized by the armedsforces. Two rockets and a mortar were destroyed (March 5, 1989).

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan

Nil report.

Ghor

Mujahideen sources: On March 24: Soviet-made warplanes attacked Mujahideen positions in Tulak district. One of the attacking aircraft was shot down.

On March 25: Mujahideen conduct 'combined' attacks on regime troops and establishments in Tulat district.

Uruzgan

Mujahideen sources: On March 5: Mujahideen attacked troops and establishments in Dehrawat district, concentrating on its headquarters Dehrawat city. Kabul regime reacts by bombarding Mujahideen positions.

On March 6: A Soviet-made helicopter shot down over Dehrawat.

Mujahideen clash with Kabul regime troops near Tarinkot—provincial capital—which has changed hands twice during the last two months. Mujahideen seized a large quantity of foodgrains and other stores from Tarinkot.

On March 24: Mujahideen renew attacks on Dehrawat.

On March 26: Local commander of militia in Dehrawat surrenders to Mujahideen along with some 1,300 members of militia and police. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including 1,500 klashnikovs, besides 6 tanks, were delivered to the Mujahideen.

On March 28: Soviet-made aeroplanes and helicopters attacked Dehrawat.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have announced that they shot down a military helicopter of the Kabul regime in the Tarinkot area of the Uruzgan province last Monday (News—Pushto: March 1, 89).

VOA: The Afghan Islamic Press, quoting a wireless message a shortwhile ago, reported that the Mujahideen captured Dehrawat, a strategic place in Uruzgan province of Central Afghanistan. The city had been under siege of Mujahideen for the last eight months. At least, 1,300 military and militiamen accepted the offer of amnesty and joined the Mujahideen. A small unit resisted and lost several men and later the city fell to Mujahideen. Dehrawat is situated about 35 kilometres west of Tarinkot, the capital of Uruzgan province. However, the Mujahideen have tightened their siege around Tarinkot and no means except helicopters, have been left to carry supplies from Kabul for the besieged government troops (Radio Report—Urdu: March 28, 1989).

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: On March 1: Mujahideen fired rockets on Special Guard soldiers in Sarai Khawaja district, about 20 KM north of Kabul city. Atleast 25 guards were believed to have been killed.

On March 5: Kabul regime troops fired more than 25 rockets on villages around Kabul city. Several houses and orchards were thus destroyed and non-partisan civilians killed. These villages lie in Qarabagh, Kohistan Mir Bachakot areas. Rocket attacks were launched from Khawaja Rawash airfield, north of the city and Tajbeg Hill in the east. (Najib had warned in an address a week earlier that if Mujahideen interfered with transport on the Salang highway, he would order missile and rocket attacks against them).

On March 8: Mujahideen fire rockets on Kabul airport.

On March 10: Mujahideen attacked security posts near Karaiz-e-Mir, 10 KM north of Kabul city. Mujahideen attacked troops near Nopul of Qarabagh district. Mujahideen fired rockets on Kabul airport.

On March 16: Soviet-made aircraft bombarded villages of Bagh-e-Ilam, Nehr Kalan, Qila Bib and Bagh-e-Araq in Qarabagh district. Ninety non-combatants, mostly women and children were killed. Aerial action followed a Mujahideen attack on a convoy coming down the Salang Highway from he Soviet Union. The convoy was supposed to be carrying arms and ammunition besides food. Several tanks and armoured vehicles were destroyed in this attack. The regime lost approximately 150 men in the fighting.

On March 20: Mujahideen destroyed an 'important' bridge on the Kabul-Jalalabad Highway.

On March 22: Mujahideen fired rockets on the regime security posts near Sarobi, on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

On March 24: Commander of regime security post at Balasan in Paghman district surrenders to Mujahideen along with 10 of his men. During fight near Basasan a tank was destroyed.

On March 26: Kabul-Jalalabad highway was closed to traffic due to heavy fighting between Mujahideen and regime forces. Mujahideen ambushed a large convoy near Sarobi. It was supposed to be proceeding to the embattled Jalalabad.

VIRA: The Kabul regime had unveiled a rebellion against Najib last month at the time of completion of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. Reuter quoted a commander of the Mujahideen operating in the area as saying that about five hundred troops were involved in this fight.

He added that about ten thousand Soviet troops who speak Pushto and Dari languages, had remained in Afghanistan to help Najib-

ullah regime (News—Pushto: March 5, 1989).

The Mujahideen sources in Peshawar report that eight pilots and four flights engineers, who had been performing duties at the Kabul airport, deserted Afghanistan and reached Pakistan last Sunday and joined the Mujahideen.

AFP reports from Peshawar that these 12 persons did not carry arms but brought very important documents with them.

A source of the Mujahideen said in this connection that the defectors had established contacts with the Mujahideen (News—Persian: March 14, 1989).

BBC: Heavy shelling is reported to have been continuing in the northern suburbs of Afghan capital Kabul at a time when hundreds of trucks carrying foodstuff and fuel are reaching Kabul from the Soviet frontier and northern Afghanistan. Liz Ducet reports:—

> The mountain regions several miles away from the Afghan capital Kabul are echoing with sounds of shelling and rocket fire. Sounds of rifles could also be heard from the district. The Government forces were also firing loud shells and medium range rockets towards the east and the west on both the sides of the highway linking Kabul with the Soviet Union. Some missiles which are believed to have been fired by the Afghan Mujahideen fell in the valley to the west of highway. All these activities were continuing at a time when hundreds of trucks carrying foodstuff and fuel escorted by tanks and armoured vehicles were entering into Afghan capital, Kabul.

Assistant Commander of the Government Regiment, Major Zia said that his regiment launched this operation yesterday, when the first batch of trucks carrying supplies were entering into Kabul. Yesterday 238 trucks carrying foodstuff and fuel reached Kabul. More than one thousand trucks are said to be on their way to Afghanistan. Major Zia said that according to reports only one rocket was fired on the convoy during its journey from the Soviet Union to Kabul. This attack was made near a bridge some ten miles from Kabul. Informed sources say that twelve trucks loaded with wheat and two trucks carrying petrol were destroyed as a result of this rocket attack. But there was no casualty. Some drivers confirmed this (Sairbeen: March 5, 1989).

A free-lance journalist Wadak Scorsky recently visited the Western suburbs of Kabul alongwith the Mujahideen. Here is his report:

> Three belts were built for the defence of Kabul. They included garrisons, posts and mines. The third belt which is thirty miles outside Kabul has now been totally abandoned. The second belt was on the southern and eastern entrances to the city. This belt is still intact but the northern belt has been totally riddled. The guerillas

can now cross over in broad-day light.

On the western suburbs, there is a plain where one could see the charred wreckages of armoured vehicles and trucks which might have attempted to take supplies through the roads but were ambushed and destroyed by the Mujahideen.

A small coaltar covered road runs out of Kabul. It is a strategic road linking Kabul with Qandahar. The Soviet military convoys used this road to go to the south. Till recently it was difficult to cross this road. I myself attempted to cross this road in the darkness of night. It took me two weeks to do so. But it is an achievement of the stinger missiles of the guerillas that the helicopters have given up flying over this area and now you can easily cross this (Sairbeen—Urdu: March 10, 1989).

Afghan guerilla forces are reported to have bombarded the area around Kabul airport with upto forty surface-to-surface missiles causing some damage and a number of casualties.

According to the Soviet news agency TASS, one of them exploded next of an Aeroflot plane and inflicted slight damage. The agency said several rockets hit residential buildings in adjacent districts. Civilians have been killed or wounded. But Tass did not say how many. The guerillas say they have blown upon a bridge on the main highway linking Jalalabad with the capital Kabul and destroyed tanks sent in to repair the damage.

According to the guerillas, part of the highway has been in the Mujahideen hands for the past two days and the Government is having to fly in supplies to Jalalabad by helicopters.

There has been no independent confirmation of the guerilla claims and a Soviet spokesman denied that any government position has fallen. He said the rebel offensive had been beaten out (News—English: March 20, 1989).

The Soviet newspaper Pravda says guerillas in Afghanistan have cut nearly all main roads out of the capital Kabul. It said communications with most of the provincial capitals were being maintained by air.

Pravda said that Government forces defending the eastern city of Jalalabad against a big guerilla offensive were also relying on air transport for their supplies.

The newspaper said a large column of military reinforcement which recently left Kabul for the aid of Jalalabad, has been unable to get through because guerillas have blown up bridges along the route (News—English: March 23, 1989).

All India Radio: In the capital Kabul the situation is normal, but the airport is a bee-hive of activity with military transport and jet aircraft taking off and landing. The sound of long-range surface-to-surface missiles being fired was also heard during the day. The airport was open to civil traffic.

Afghan officials say two persons were killed in yesterday's rocket attack on the airport (Air-News—English: March 9, 1989).

In a report from Kabul THE HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent, Brij Bharadwash says that when an aircraft carrying journalists landed at Kabul airport, the airport looked deserted. It was said that on seeing rockets falling at the airport, most of the airport staff had fled away. One of the rockets fell quite close to the runway.

Reports reveal that eighteen rockets were fired at the Kabul airport yesterday. These rocket attacks made the landing of flights coming from New Delhi doubtful. It is said that these rockets were fired at the Kabul airport to retaliate strict Government action against the rebels in Jalalabad. Bharadwash also said that the supply of essential commodities in Kabul has now improved (AIR: March 10, 1989).

In Afghanistan, more than eighty civilians including women and children were killed when rebels fired rockets on four buses, two of them Kabul-bound.

An official spokesman said in Kabul last night that two jampacked mini buses, one coming from Jalalabad and the other from Laghman province came under rocket fire. All the seventy passengers were killed.

Two of the buses were blown up by the rebels near the Iranian border killing ten persons and injuring several others (AIR: March 27, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The extremists opened fire on residential areas of Sarobi Uleswali of Kabul province as a result two houses were damaged (March 1, 1989).

Criminal extremists supported by Pakistan by firing ground-to-ground missiles at Kabul city committed yet another crime against our people today. Military correspondent reports that the missiles landed in Bibi Mahro area of Kabul as a result of one person was martyred and another injured and several houses were damaged (News—Pushto: March 8, 1989).

According to a report the extremists by firing ground-to-ground missiles at Kabul city, committed another crime against the citizens of Kabul today.

As a result of the missile attack by the extremists, one citizen of Kabul was martyred and another injured (News—Pushto: March 11, 89).

As a result of the deadly blows by the Armed Forces in Kalajan area of Kabul province six extremists were killed (March 13, 1989).

State security ministry personnel today prevented what would

have been a tragic mishap in Kabul city. BIA's Military section reported that Sayyaf extremist group members had hidden 1 tonne of explosives, 30 surface-to-surface missiles, five detonators, 20 warheads, 500 metres of 1 second fuse and 20 magnetic bombs, in Paghman district.

The intention was to cause explosions in crowded areas of Kabul city and to fire the missiles on the residential areas. This arsenal was discovered in time by state security personnel and thus they foiled the evil and satanic plan of criminal extremists who are protected by Pakistan (March 15, 1989).

According to an authentic source of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan the security situation has been normal during the past twenty-four hours in most of the Provinces. The units and regiments remained on their original positions and kept on their training activities as well as preparedness for military operations. Except in one or two provinces no major combat operation was carried out. Kabul Highway was opened to traffic and supply convoys are moving normally (News—English: March 25, 1989).

Kabul Times: Kabul, March 16 (BIA): Two thousand and eight hundred litres of poisonous material, in 14 barels, discovered by the heroes of the organs of the Ministry of State Security in Khushal Maina and Shashahid areas of the fifth and eighth precincts of Kabul city.

Mohammad Nasim son of Mohammad Karim, Zalmai son of Mohammad Ali, Mohammadullah son of Haji Zamir and Wahid Ahmad son of Naik Mohammad the possessors of the material were arrested and the case is under serious investigation (March 16, 1989).

Kabul, March 16 (BIA): Heart-breaking incidents in Kabul city were prevented yesterday by the personnel of the State Security Ministry.

Elements attached to Sayyaf extremist group had placed one ton explosives, 30 surface-to-surface missiles, five detonators, 20 warheads, 500 metres of detonating wire and 20 magnetic bombs in the related areas of Paghman.

The munition which was intended for attacks on the residential and in densely-populated areas of Kabul city was captured with the direct cooperation of the local people thus foiling the ominous plan of the criminal extremists (March 16, 1989).

Radio Moscow: Tass news agency reports that the Afghan opposition groups have increased their activities along the Kabul-Hairatan road. In their operations south of Salang Highway, the Afghan security forces have wiped out several armed groups. The opposition is also trying to deprive Kabul city of electricity. The area near the Sarobi power station was hit with about eighty missiles (News—Pushto: March

1, 1989).

The armed opposition groups have committed a new crime against the civilian people of Kabul city. The terrorists exploded two bombs near the premises of the Afghan National Assembly and Shah Shaheed petrol pump. The explosions resulted in injuries to three inhabitants of the city and heavy damage was caused to the National Assembly building (News—Pushto: March 2, 1989).

Radio Kabul says that the armed groups of the Afghan opposition fired on the columns of trucks carrying food and fuel on Sunday. Fifteen trucks were destroyed by rockets near the Afghan capital. Despite the terrorist acts by the armed opposition about six hundred trucks with six thousand tons of essential supplies have crossed the Salang mountain pass and arrived in Kabul in the past two days (News—English: March 6, 1989).

Radio Moscow correspondent reports that the armed opposition groups have once again fired missiles on Kabul airport. Nine missiles landed near the control tower and on the runway and others exploded in the outskirts of the airport. The attacks caused human losses (News—Pushto: March 10, 1989).

Opposition groups resumed shelling Kabul international airport with rockets, as a result of which civilians, including women and children, have been killed and great material damage has been caused. A few days ago, an Aeroflot passenger plane at the airport was damaged as a result of such shelling. It was only a matter of chance that no Soviet people suffered. This action, aimed against the security of civil aviation is a blatant violation of the basic norms of international law and, in particular, of the international convention on civil aviation.

People in the USSR express their indignation in connection with such terrorist actions. The shellings of Kabul international airport once again show that the irreconcilable Afghan opposition stops at nothing for the sake of its monstrous aims, and is continuing the course toward bloodshed. Moreover this is at a time when the Afghan Government is persistently proposing that the fratricidal war be ended and a peaceful solution be found.

Where do the rocket shells come from which are sowing death on the territory of Afghanistan and striking the international airport? Everyone knows that they come from Pakistan (TASS: March 14, 89).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: On February 27: Thirty passengers in a Kabul-bound bus from Mazar-i-Sharif were killed when Special Guards protecting the Salang Highway opened up on them with devastating artillery

fire. The bus came under fire in Pul Matak area of Jabal-us-Siraj district. Local Mujahideen leaders wondered at the motive of the regime troops in firing on the bus. The bodies of the passengers were flown out in helicopters.

On March 3: Mujahideen launched simultaneous attack against regime troops and establishments in Salang, Jabal-us-Siraj, Charikar and Bagram airbase areas. Regime troops replied by launching 3 counter-attacks. In the course of the fighting more than 50 regime troops were believed to have been killed. They also lost 2 tanks. On the same day, Mujahideen destroyed another 3 tanks in Totom Dara, at the mouth of the Salang valley.

On March 7: Kabul regime forces attacked Mujahideen positions all along the Salang valley. These attacks were repulsed. Meanwhile, Salang valley continued to be bombed from the air, and by long range artillery.

On March 14: More than 200 regime army officers and men crossed over and joined the Mujahideen (somewhere) in the Salang valley. The unit had been stationed in Olang area, about 5 KM south of the Salang tunnels. They delivered to the Mujahideen a large quantity of arms and ammunition and 12 armoured cars. Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Kalai Surkh.

On March 15: Mujahideen attacked Bagram airbase with rockets. Technical installations at the airbase suppose suffered damage.

On March 26: Mujahideen captured 25 regime soldiers during a successful incursion on a security post at the mouth of the Salang valley in the Jabul-us-Siraj area.

On March 27: Mujahideen hit a military convoy near Salang tunnels. Three vehicles were believed to have been destroyed.

VIRA: Afghan Mujahideen in their operations in Qala-e-Surkh area and Jablu-us-Siraj, Parwan province destroyed six trucks and three tanks of the Kabul regime and killed a number of Kabul troops (News—Persian: March 18, 1989).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have captured two security posts on the Salang Highway. According to REUTER report, the spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry while admitting occupation of the posts by the guerillas said, traffic between Kabul and Soviet border has been stopped (News—Urdu: March 31, 1989).

BBC: One of the main rebel groups, the Jamiat-e-Islami has said that more than two hundred government troops defected last Tuesday near the Salang highway north of Kabul (Newsreel—English: March 20, 1989).

The Afghan news agency Bakhtar reports that an agreement has

been signed between the Government and the representatives of, what it calls, the armed rebels for the safe movement of the essential commodities through roads. The agreement includes the area from Kabul to Parwan highway. It is reported that the elders of the villages situated on the highway have also signed the agreement.

The agreement says that if private or Government vehicles are attacked, the Armed Forces will take retaliatory action (News—Urdu: March 22, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The Kabul-Hairatan road, which remained closed due to snow-fall for several days, has now been cleared and is open for traffic. Bakhtar news agency reports that inspite of the hurdles created by the terrorists, about five hundred and fifty six vehicles carrying some six thousand tonnes of foodstuff and other essential commodities have reached Kabul yesterday and today. Due to the attacks of the armed terrorists on the relief convoy coming to Kabul from Parwan, thirteen oil tankers and two trucks loaded with vehicles were burnt. In retaliation, the security forces have inflicted crushing blows on the enemies of people. The supply of foodstuff to Kabul is continuing (March 5, 89).

According to a report of a source of the Armed Forces the situation in majority of the provinces is normal and the Jalalabad-Kabul and Kabul-Hairatan roads are open to traffic. Bakhtar news agency has sent this report about the military situation in the country during the past twenty four hours.

In Parwan province, nine terrorists were killed and fifteen others injured when the security forces carried out mopping-up operations against terrorists who wanted to attack the relief caravans. In another operation in Bagh-e-Lal area, heavy losses were inflicted to the subversive elements while one soldier was martyred and two others injured in these activities (March 6, 1989).

A source of the armed forces reports that situation is normal in most of the provinces in the country. Kabul-Jalalabad and Kabul-Hairatan highways are open for traffic.

The heroic armed forces are busy for the defence and security of the people and in several areas the armed forces have dealt heavy blows to the extremists, indulging in loot and murder.

The Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has sent the following reports about over all military situation in the country.

As a result of the successful operations of the security forces in the outskirts of Parwan province, sixteen extremists were killed (March 8, 1989).

Kapisa

Mujahideen sources: On February 28: Two regime airforce pilots flew into the liberated territory and joined Mujahideen. They came in MI-35 helicopters.

All India Radio: Reports from Kabul speak of fierce attacks by Afghan rebels in the northern part of the country. The rebels are reportedly led by powerful commander Ahmad Shah Masood. The vital Salang Highway connecting Afghanistan with the Soviet Union has reportedly been cut by the rebels. Big ambushes at the convoys have also taken place.

The Government troops have retaliated with heavy air attacks (Air News—English-Urdu: March 28, 1989).

Radio Kabul: The Salang Highway has been closed to traffic due to heavy snowfall.

A spokesman of the Construction Affairs Ministry has said that due to hectic efforts of the road workers, the northern parts of Salang highway have been opened for traffic and that work is speedily underway on southern Salang Highway (News—Pushto: March 1, 1989).

A source of the Ministry of Construction Affairs says that the movement of traffic on Salang Highway is normal. The Highway was opened to traffic on March 2. It was earlier closed due to heavy snowfall (News—English: March 4, 1989).

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: On March 25: Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made helicopter with a missile over the besieged Laghman provincial headquarters, Meterlam.

Radio Kabul: According to another report an arms convoy of the extremists was wiped out during the successful operations of the Afghan Armed Forces in Laghman province. The convoy had entered Afghanistan from Pakistan. In the military operations ten horses and mules carrying arms and ammunition were killed along with thirteen extremists and two Arab advisers. One official of the Security Force was also injured during the operations (News—Pushto: March 10, 89).

In a series of military operations in Laghman and Kunduz provinces a number of extremists were killed and injured (News—Pushto: March 30, 1989).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: On February 26: Twenty Kabul regime soldiers, including officers, defected and joined the Mujahideen ranks (somewhere) in Logar province.

On March 2: Mujahideen attacked security posts in Shir Afghan district. Two regime officers were killed and five other ranks surrendered to Mujahideen.

Kabul Times: As a result of the operations here two belligerent elements were killed, and a large quantity of their arms and ammunition destroyed (KT: March 2, 1989).

Wardak

BBC: We talked to Commander Rohani of Maulvi Khalis group who is also second-in-command of the Islamic Commandos of the Mujahideen in Wardak and Ghazni provinces. We asked him about the war situation in his area.

Commanders Rohani: The Wardak province has been liberated barring Maidan Shehr. Though, it was captured by the Mujahideen yet the government re-established its posts and deployed its forces in this area. The remaining areas of Wardak province stand liberated. The Mujahideen carry out their operations in the suburbs of Maidan Shehr and Ghazni.

Compere: Is there any danger of mines in your area?

Commander Rohani: The Kabul regime planted mines in some parts of our area to defend its posts. Generally, mines exist in those areas from where people have migrated and the situation is different in our area. Our people are still living in villages and Uleswalis. We were aware of these problems. Wherever the Soviets used to plant mines, the Mujahideen defused them.

Compere: Would you like to give us information about the death of a French national?

Commander Rohani: On February 27, an avalanche fell on a Mujahideen garrison martyring a Mujahid and killing a French doctor, Christophe (March 7, 1989).

VOA: A French medical group working in Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds has said that one of its nurses and an Afghan assistant were killed in a landslide in Central Afghanistan.

The mishap took place in Wardak province in the west of Kabul on Sunday (News—Urdu: March 1, 1989).

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below were the Radio Kabul major propaganda themes in the month of March 1989, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Direct involvement of Pakistan's military and para-military

forces in the fighting for major cities like Jalalabad, Qandahar and Khost.

2. Pakistan has designs against Afghanistan. To begin with, it wants confederation with Afghanistan and finally its annexation as its fifth province.
3. Blatant and continous violation of Geneva Accords on the part of Pakistan.
4. Differences in the ranks of Mujahideen on Pak-American—formed Shoora, and Interim Government.
5. Afghan government armed forces are strong enough to defend the country. They are waging virtual Jehad against enemies of the country.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media propaganda themes regarding Afghanistan in the month of March 1989, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Direct involvement of Pakistani forces in the battle for Jalalabad, and other cities bordering Pakistan.
2. U.S. and Pakistan are violating the Geneva Accords and interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.
3. Withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan substantiates unilateral peace-loving policy of Soviet-Kabul authorities.
4. Only political, and not military, solution of Afghanistan problem is possible. It would involve the establishment of a broadbased government including all political elements.
5. Increasing differences in the ranks of Afghan opposition on the issues of Shoora and Interim Government.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MARCH 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Kabul casualties	:	1407 killed and 1389 wounded
Defections	:	3276 Kabul troops defected and 2040 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	220 killed and 403 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	221 killed and 159 wounded

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses

Aeroplanes	18	Security Posts	112
Helicopters	10	Buildings	5
Tanks	162	Airport Installations	3
APCs	72	Food Depot	6
HMVs	183	Ammunition Depots	5
Trucks	41	Bridges	1
Oil Tankers	45	Quantities of arms and	
Jeeps	8	ammunition	9
LMGs	198	Assorted Weapons	1007
HMGs	140	Round of Ammuntions	21600
Doshaka	34	Afghan Currency	50,00000
Rocket Launchers	131		
Klashnikovs	3297		

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MARCH 1989 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses Inflicted to "Counter-Revolutionaries"

Human Losses: killed 6785
Wounded 2808
Captured 202

Returnees: Civilian Refugees 3466 Volunteers joining Armed Forces: 952
Armed Men surrendering: 526

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Tanks	3	Explosives 1380 Kg. + 5 fuses	
APCs	6	& 500 Metre of wire	
Rocket Units	49		
G.G. Missiles	113	Wireless sets	25
Hideouts/Trenches	303	Handgrenades boxful	12
Command Posts	9	Barrels of Poison	14
Type writer	1	Subversive literature 5 catche	
Munition Depots	15	Mortars box of shells	19
Quantities of arms	5	Recoilless guns	36
Dashakas	21	with 98 shells	
Rocket Launchers	119	Vehicles	83
Klashnikovs	357	including 63 laden + arms.	
Assorted Weapons	266	HMGs	29 + 59
Mines (Misc)	220	rounds of ammunition	
LMGs	8	Zkg	2 + 3 boxes of shells
Canon	49	Cartridges boxful	50, 340 + 26

Losses inflicted by counter-revolutionary elements:

Human Losses	Killed	157	(including 73 troops)
	Wounded	317	(including 111 troops)

Material Losses	Aircraft	2	M. Guns 2	Shrines	2
	Hospitals	2	Houses 54	Mosques	8
	APCs	3	Bus 1	Trucks	2
	Shops	14	Oil Tankers		13

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN MARCH 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engage-ments	Provincial Capital	Engagements: Inside City	Engagements: Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	3	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	7	Lashkargah	—	1
Qandahar	54	Qandahar	7	10
Zabul	3	Kalat Gilzai	—	1
Ghazni	4	Ghazni	2	1
Paktika	—	Sharna	2	1
Paktiya	o 28	Gardez	1	—
Ningarhar	130	Jalalabad	12	57
Kunar	—	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Nooristan	—	Godwal	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	3	Faizabad	3	—
Takhar	—	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	3	Kunduz	—	—
Baghlan	23	Baghlan	—	2
Samangan	7	Samangan	—	—
Balkh	5	Mazar-e-Sharif	—	—
Jozjan	4	Shebergan	2	—
Sar-e-pul	1	Sar-e-Pul	1	—
Faryab	4	Maimana	2	—
Badghis	7	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	33	Herat	2	5
Farah	4	Farah	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	4	Chaghcharan	—	—
Uruzgan	12	Tarin Kot	1	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	29	Kabul	2	4
Parwan	23	Charikar	4	—
Kapisa	—	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	4	Mehtarlam	—	1
Logar	2	Pul-e-Alam	—	—
Wardak	—	Koteasro	—	—
TOTAL	397		39	86

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APPENDIX — 4

MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN MARCH 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	1	—	2	—	3
Hilmand	1	4	2	—	7
Qandahar	15	31	7	1	54
Zabul	1	—	2	—	3
Ghazni	1	3	—	—	4
Paktika	—	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	15	8	2	3	28
Ningarhar	45	43	29	13	130
Kunar	—	—	—	—	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	3	—	—	3
Takhar	—	—	—	—	—
Kunduz	2	1	—	—	3
Baghlan	16	6	—	1	23
Samangan	1	1	4	1	7
Balkh	4	1	—	—	5
Jozjan	1	3	—	—	4
Sar-e-pul	—	1	—	—	1
Faryab	4	—	—	—	4
Badghis	1	4	2	—	7
Bordering Iran					
Herat	8	17	8	—	33
Farah	2	—	2	—	4
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	1	1	2	—	4
Uruzgan	2	6	4	—	12
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	8	11	4	6	29
Parwan	4	10	2	7	23
Kapisa	—	—	—	—	—
Laghman	2	—	2	—	4
Logar	—	2	—	—	2
Wardak	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	135	156	76	32	397

APPENDIX — 5

PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND RETURNEES IN MARCH 1989 (Radio Kabul)

Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Returnees	Armed men surrendered	Volunteer joining armed forces
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	—	1500	—	—
Hilmand	8	—	1435	—	567
Qandahar	24	2	—	—	—
Zabul	—	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	1	3	—	—	385
Paktika	—	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	2	15	—	—	—
Ningarhar	52	47	—	—	—
Kunar	2	—	—	—	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	1	—	—	—	—
Takhar	—	—	—	—	—
Kunduz	—	—	500	210	—
Baghlan	5	4	—	—	—
Samangan	1	—	—	—	—
Balkh	2	—	—	164	—
Jozjan	1	—	—	12	—
Faryab	—	—	—	34	—
Sar-e-pul	1	—	—	8	—
Badghis	2	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran					
Herat	12	6	31	100	—
Farah	2	—	—	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	15	21	—	—	—
Parwan	6	7	1	20	*
Kapisa	—	—	—	—	—
Laghman	3	3	—	—	—
Logar	1	—	—	—	—
Wardak	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	141	108	3466	548	952

Kabul sources reported that the Afghan airforces conducted air raids against rebel positions in Ningarhar, Kunar, Qandahar and Herat provinces in March.

*Radio Kabul estimates and upto 4157 other volunteers who joined the armed forces in unspecified provinces in March.

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APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES IN MARCH 1989 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses Destroyed	Date
		K	W		
Ningarhar	Rodat	4	8	—	01-03
Ningarhar	Hisar Shahi	4	6	—	01-03
Ningarhar	Batikot	4	4	—	01-03
Ningarhar	Shanwar	4	6	4	03-03
Baghlan	Anderab	25	—	—	14-03
Herat	Injeel	28	35	—	14-03
Kabul	Kabul city	3	—	—	22-02
Kabul	Kabul city	3	—	—	22-02
Kabul	Garbagh	10	—	10	05-03
Kabul	Garbagh	90	100	12	16-03
Parwan	Bagram	20	—	—	06-03
Parwan	Salang tunnel	30	—	—	27-02
TOTAL:		221	159	26	—

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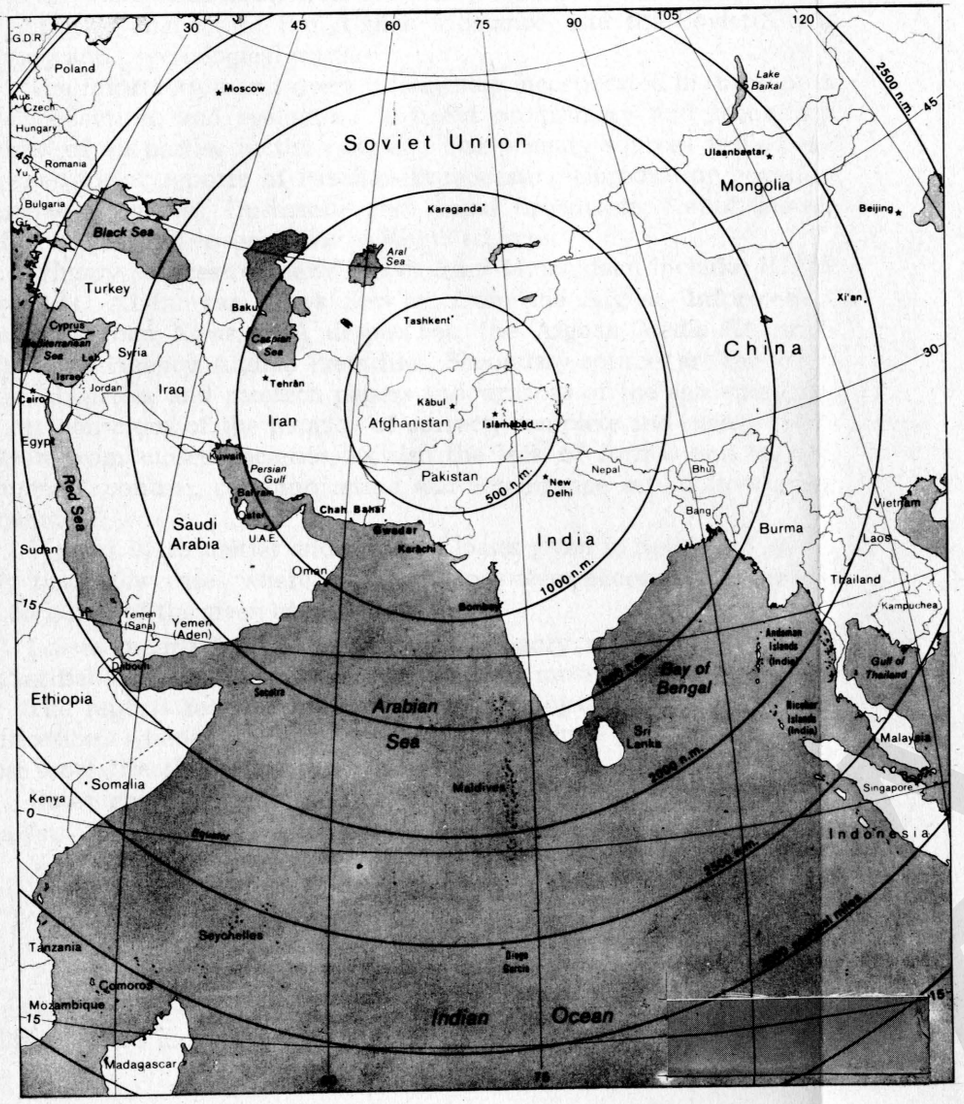
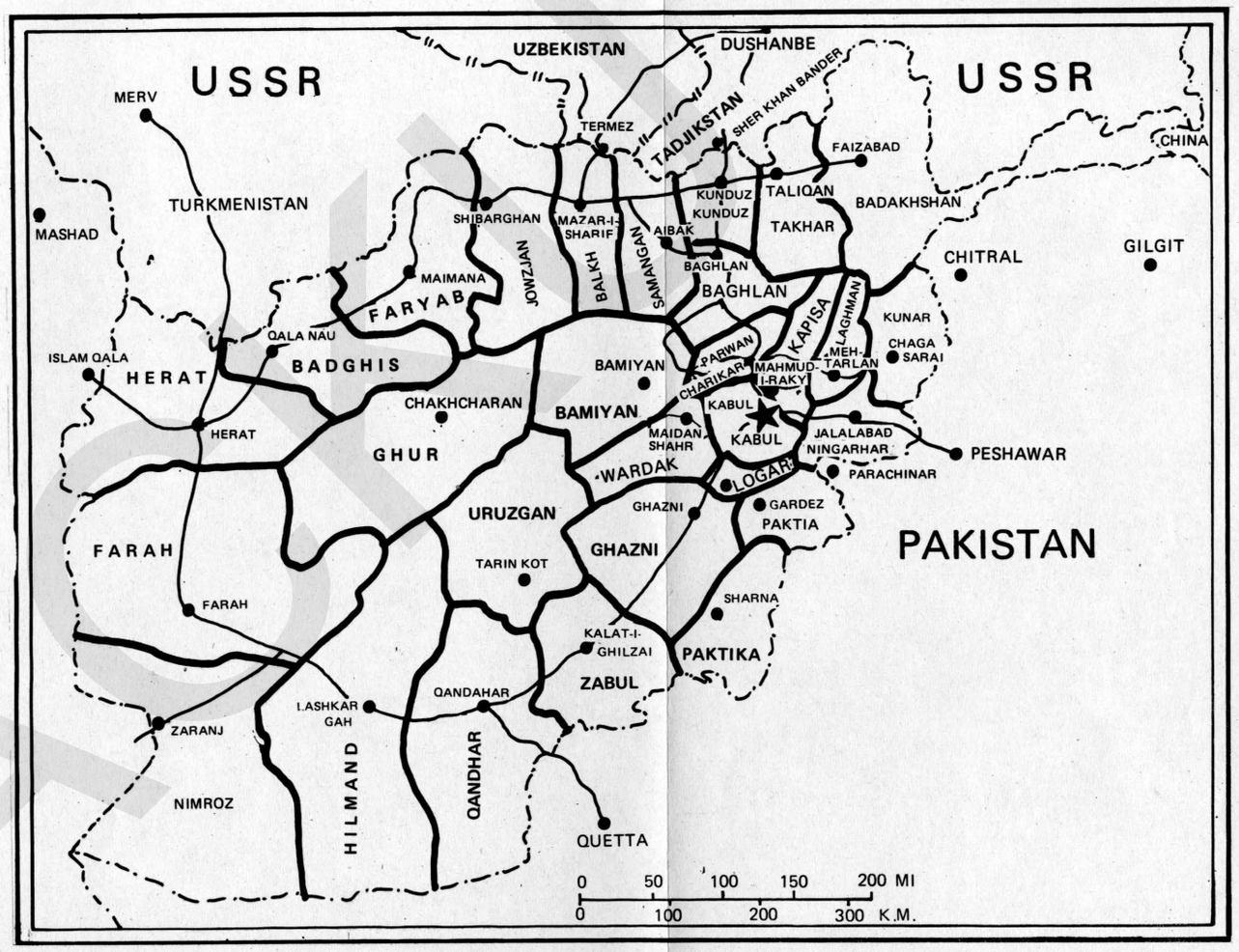
APPENDIX — 7

MAPS

APPENDIX — 7 A



APPENDIX — 7 B



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during March 1989 in 24 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Paktika, Kunar, Nooristan, Takhar, Bamiyan, Kapisa and Wardak.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during March 1989 in 20 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Nimroz, Paktika, Nooristan, Takhar, Kunduz, Bamiyan, Ghor, Uruzgan, Kapisa, Wardak and Faryab.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Kabul Times, and FBIS material covering Soviet-Kabul sources.

Primary sources for news report from Mujahideen include: IUAM Handouts, Al-Bunyan News Service, from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches, the Afghan Media Resource Centre and Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Porvincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during March 1—31, 1989. Appendices 1—7 also incorporate February 1989 incidents reported in March 1989.

II.— POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

OIC Recognised Interim Government

OIC Foreign Ministers, recognised on March 16, the Mujahideen interim set-up, fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government giving it the vacant Afghanistan seat, delegates said. Gulbadin Hikmatyar, Foreign Minister of the interim set-up, took the seat at a meeting of the 46-member organisation to sustained applause and cries of "Allah-o-Akbar (God is Great) (Daily Muslim, 17 March).

A leading member of the Afghan Mujahideen Interim Government said on March 17, that winning a seat in the OIC, had boosted its chances of taking power in Kabul. Gulbadin Hikmatyar told a news conference, "there is no doubt that the granting of the Afghanistan seat in the OIC is a collective, de facto recognition of the government. Only Syria and South Yemen both of which have close ties with the Soviet Union, expressed reservations while Iraq, PLO and North Yemen abstained from the vote. Hikmatyar said that there would be no hard feelings toward Islamic countries that had not fully backed the Mujahideen cause (Daily Nation, 19 March).

Saudi Arabia has become the first country to recognise the interim administration set up by Afghan guerilla groups based in Pakistan (BBC, 9 March).

The Sudanese government has announced to officially recognise the newly formed interim government of the Afghan Mujahideen (VOA, 13 March).

Mujahideen Government Held Its First Meeting Inside Afghanistan

The meeting of the interim government of the Mujahideen was held in Shewa pass north of Khost. The head of the interim government, Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddadi,, Prime Minister, Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf and eight Ministers of the interim government participated. At the beginning of the meeting, the Minister of Mines and Industries, Engineer Eishan Jan recited verses from the Holy Quran and then Professor Mujaddadi spoke on the occasion. He said that this is an important and historic day because our meeting is being held inside Afghanistan. God Almighty enabled us to liberate our country from a despotic superpower and to hold the meeting of our Islamic government on the soil of our own country. He said that it will be astonishing for the world that we hold our cabinet meeting in simplicity and we

also launched our Jehad (Holy War) in simplicity, with empty hands and finally defeated a superpower. Professor Mujaddadi said that the world people would very soon see our greatness and capability. He added that the entire world is well aware of the fact that all the cities and towns of Afghanistan have been destroyed. But he expressed the hope that the interim government of the Afghan Mujahideen would use their energy for the reconstruction of the country considering it as its prime duty (VOA, 11 March).

The head of the Afghan Mujahideen's interim government, Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddadi has issued a message to the people of Afghanistan on the eve of new Afghan year. Mujaddadi has felicitated the people of Afghanistan on the occasion of new year and has said that the previous year was full of important events for the Afghans due to different political and military activities. In the military field, Mujahideen forced the Red Army to quit Afghanistan and heroic resistance of the Afghan nation created a hard time for the Soviet installed government in Kabul. He said that in the political field last year, the meeting of the Shoora with the participation of a large number of the Jehad commanders, Ulema, national leaders and intellectuals as well as the formation of an Islamic government of the Mujahideen were the most important events in the ten years long Jehad. In his message, Professor Mujaddadi prayed for the soul of the martyrs of the Afghan Jehad and said their sacrifices have made our victory possible and brightened the future of our freedom. He called upon the Mujahideen to forge unity and expressed the hope that peace in the country would be restored very soon (VOA, 22 March).

Mujahideen Governments Warning to India

In an interview to Afghan News Agency on March 30, Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddadi, President of the interim government while confirming reports warned Indian authorities of the consequences for sending pilots to help the Kabul regime. He said according to reports the Indian pilots were actively participating in the bombardment of Mujahideen positions all over the country (Daily Dawn, 31 1989).

India Reject Press Reports

India has categorically refused the report in a section of the press that Indian pilots and technical experts are operating planes in Afghanistan.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi today dismissed the reports as baseless, mischievous and part of a disinformation exercise.

The report has suggested that Indian Air Force pilots and technical experts have also taken part in bombing of certain Mujahideen positions in Khost area.

The spokesman also asserted that India has not been providing any military assistance to the Afghan Government. He, however, said that in keeping with the age-old links between the people of the two countries, India has been participating in the economic programmes of Afghanistan, dedicated to the welfare of the common man (AIR, 2 March).

Kabul Using Chemical Bombs

Sources of the Afghan Mujahideen have said that the Kabul regime forces have used chemical bombs during bombardment on positions of Afghan Mujahideen in the outskirts of Jalalabad city. According to an IRNA report, the Mujahideen sources said following the use of chemical weapons in the suburbs of Jalalabad city, thousands of the inhabitants of that area have migrated to Pakistan (Radio Tehran, 15 March).

Ayatullah Muntazri Meets Hikmatyar

Ayatullah Muntazri, the successor designate of Imam Khomeini held talks with the leader of Hizb-e-Islami, Afghanistan, Mr. Gulbadin Hikmatyar on March 6, 1989. During the talks, Ayatullah Muntazri stressed the need of unity among the Mujahideen groups and urged them to form a strong government composed of all parties of the Mujahideen which may be acceptable to the Afghan people. Similarly, he warned against the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and Muslims to create rift among the Mujahideen. He called for complete unity and understanding among the Mujahideen in order to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan (Radio Tehran, 7 March).

8-Party Alliance to Join Soon

The President of the Interim Afghan Government Mr. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi has expressed the hope that the Iran-based Afghan Mujahideen will also join the interim government very soon. Talking in Peshawar, Mujaddadi said that soon a delegation would proceed to Iran to have talks with the Iran-based Afghan Mujahideen (BBC, 2 March).

Afghan Mujahideen leader, Gulbadin Hikmatyar met the Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati and his first deputy, Ali Mohammads Basharati in Tehran. The talks centered on the formation of government in exile by Pakistan-based seven party resistance alliance last month and its differences with Iran-based eight party alliance. Mr. Hikmatyar who has been nominated as Foreign Minister in the interim government, arrived in Tehran for settling the differences between

Pakistan and Iran-based Mujahideen groups (VOA, 8 March).

The Chief of the eight party Iran-based Mujahideen alliance, Mr. Mohammad Karim Khalili has said that any future political settlement of the Afghan issue in the absence of Iran-based Afghan Mujahideen will be useless. According to an IRNA report, addressing a gathering of the Afghan refugees and the activists of the eight-party alliance at a mosque in Mashed Mr. Khalili said that the enemy's ambition to create differences among the Afghan Mujahideen will be dashed down. He emphasisedsthat the struggle and firmness of the Afghan nation have achieved gains (Radio Tehran, 13 March).

Leaders of Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan, Burhanuddin Rabbani has described the non-participation of eight-party alliance in the interim government as a great set back and expressed hope that an equitable participation by the eight-party alliance will be arranged so that the interim government is further strengthened. Speaking to a gathering arranged in Peshawar he appreciated the support of Iranian government to the Islamic Jehad of the Afghan Muslim nation. He said the enemies of the Afghan nation wanted to create discord among the Muslims of Afghanistan. But sober reaction by all the Mujahideen groups frustrated these conspiracies (Radio Tehran, 15 March).

Mr. Shevardnadze Meets Mr. Lavasani

The Soviet Union and Iran are ready to assist efforts to stop the bloodshed in Afghanistan as soon as possible. They want an end to foreign interference in that country's affairs and the establishment of peace there by exercising the Afghanistan's sovereign right to self-determination. That was a key note of a meeting between the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Mr. Mohammad Hussain Lavasani in Moscow on March 17 (Radio Moscow, 18 March).

Kabul Government Rejects OIC Decision

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan rejects and condemns strongly the provocative decision of the Islamic Conference about allocating the seat of Afghanistan in the OIC to a Pakistan-based so-called interim government. This decision of the OIC is in flagrant violations of all the internationally-recognised norms and against the legitimate rights and interests of the Afghan people (Radio Kabul, 17 March).

Najib Meets Officials

The Afghan President, Najibullah held a meeting with a number of

officials of the State Security Ministry today. In the beginning, Chief of the Political Affairs Section of the said Ministry, Brigadier General Mohammad Arif presented a report on the Ningarhar front. Later Najibullah said, that following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from our country we have taken over the heavy responsibility of the defence of the country, with the support of the Party, Armed Forces, political allies and other Afghan compatriots. As we are living under extra-ordinary situation, hence the situation demands extraordinary struggle, more alertness and sacrifice from us (Radio Kabul, 17 March).

Najib Turns to God After Soviet Withdrawal

A report from Kabul carried by the Hindustan Times says that after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Afghan President Dr. Najibullah is now frequently seen in Mosques. Offering prayers in Shairpur Mosque last week, Dr. Najibullah said that he had been offering prayers in Pul-e-Khishti Mosque. The report says that Dr. Najib's visits to Mosques and change in Afghan government's religious policy have occurred simultaneously (AIR, 14 March).

The Afghan President Najibullah has once again urged the United Nations to set up border posts to monitor Pakistan's involvement in the Mujahideen attacks carried on Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad. In a broadcast to the nation on the eve of Afghan new year, President Najibullah said that without such measures the regional peace as well as the credibility of the United Nations would be endangered (BBC, March 21).

The Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement has appealed to Western countries to reopen their embassies in Kabul. The American Associated Press says the Afghan Government has specifically directed its appeal to the United States. Twelve Western Countries have closed their embassies in Kabul since the last Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan on the 15th of February (Radio Australia, 23 March).

UN Team Unable to Investigate Violations

The Head of the United Nations Monitoring Group in Afghanistan, General Rauli Helminen, has said that heavy fighting has prevented his team from getting to Jalalabad to assess the situation there. Because of that, he said it had been unable to investigate claims by both the Afghan and the Soviet Union of Pakistani involvement, claims denied by Pakistan. The General told a news conference in Kabul that the United Nations could not provide a peace keeping force or an observation mission until the fighting stopped (BBC, 18 March).

The UN Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar has stressed the need to form a broad-based government in Afghanistan to ease the situation there. He said such a government should have representatives from all the groups. In an interview to AIR, Mr. Cuellar said he is in constant touch with Kabul, Islamabad, Washington and Moscow for setting up a representative government. Replying to a question, he said, there is no possibility to enlarging the UN Peace Keeping Action in Afghanistan at this stage (AIR, 2 March).

Vorontsov Accused Pakistan and the US

The Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov has said the fighting between government troops and guerillas around the eastern city of Jalalabad has created a grave situation threatening a wider conflict. Speaking in the Afghan capital Kabul, he said there was no longer any doubt about extensive Pakistani involvement in the battle, which has been going on for nearly two weeks. Vorontsov also criticised the United States which as a guarantor of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, were showing no interest in stopping the war. He urged the United Nations to help establish a broad-based government in Kabul. Questioned about the continuing Soviet arms supplies to the Afghan government, Mr. Vorontsov said they were normal. But he added that a very powerful means of ending the war was to stop arms shipments to both sides (BBC, 16 March).

US Rejects Soviet Allegations

The US State Department has rejected the Soviet allegations that the United States and Pakistan were responsible for the continued war in Afghanistan. The State Department spokesman, Charles Redman said the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Yuli Vorontsov attempted to change the history at his Kabul news conference. He said, "Mr. Vorontsov can't write the history afresh. No one has any doubt the beginning of current war and the consequent difficulties being faced in Afghanistan. The kind of allegations being levelled by Mr. Vorontsov can't make the world community to forget that the Soviets invaded and occupied Afghanistan or they attempted to constantly support an unreasonable regime in Kabul". (VOA, 18 March).

Pakistan Rejects Soviet Statement

A spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry has rejected the Soviet allegations that Pakistani military men are taking part in the war in Afghanistan alongwith the Mujahideen. Concern has been expressed in the statement over the utterances of Soviet Ambassador in Afghanistan, Mr. Vorontsov. The Pakistani spokesman termed this statement as

unwarranted and said that it has created doubts and suspicion with regard to the Soviet designs in the war (BBC, 19 March).

The Pakistani Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has denied reports that Pakistani troops are fighting in Afghanistan on the side of the Mujahideen. In an interview with an Indian news paper Ms Bhutto said that no Pakistani soldier had crossed the Afghan Border so far and that no will cross in future. Prime Minister Ms Bhutto's denial was in response to accusations from the Soviet Union (Radio Netherland, 21 March).

Sir Geoffery Howe On Interim Mujahideen Government

The British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffery Howe, has had a meeting in Islamabad with leaders of the Interim Government formed by the Afghan Mujahideen. At a news conference afterwards, Sir Geoffery described them as a group of people committed to advance the prospects of truly representative government in their country and deeply concerned over the welfare of their people (BBC, 28 March).

2 — SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Protocol Signed

In the light of the statement of President Najibullah, a protocol on not to attack the convoys of foodstuff and consumer goods on Kabul-Parwan Highway, was signed between the elders of the two villages of Mir Bacha Kot Woleswali and the Armed Forces Division responsible for maintaining security at Kabul-Parwan Highway.

The Governor of Kabul and a number of representatives of the opponent armed groups were also present on the occasion.

According to the protocol, the armed operations of the opponents will be stopped on the official road from Mir Bacha Kot to Qila-e-Nusrat. Likewise, the Armed Forces will also avoid military operations in the area. It has been stated in the protocol that the elders of the villages are responsible for the complete security in the area from Mir Bacha Kot to Qila-e-Nusrat. In case, the food grain convoys suffer any loss, the Armed Forces are allowed to carry out land and air operations in the area (Kabul Times, March 11).

Kabul Appeal for UN Assistance

President Najibullah of Afghanistan has requested for the United Nations' assistance for improving the supply to the population of Kabul with food and fuel by organizing an airlift of cargos from the Afghan-Soviet border (Radio Moscow, 5 March).

The Afghan Vice President Abdul Rahim Hatif addressed the meeting of the International Human Rights Commission in Geneva on March 2, 1989. According to the report Mr. Hatif met the UN Aid Coordinator for Afghanistan, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan in his office. The Afghan Ambassador in Geneva was also present on the occasion. The UN humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and particularly the first phase of supply of essential commodities to Kabul by road and air figured at the meeting. Prince Sadruddin assured that he would spare no effort in this regard (Radio Kabul, 3 March).

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has sent separate messages to the Chiefs of the UNESCO and UNICEF. In the messages attention of these organisations was drawn up to the heavy losses which Afghanistan has sustained during the ten years of the undeclared war. In the messages, these organisations were urged to play their important role in providing necessary assistance to the Afghan people (Radio Kabul, 8 March).

He has also sent separate messages to the Director of UN Development Programme and the Chairman of the International Committee of Red Cross in New York and Geneva. The attention of these International agencies has been drawn to the need for assistance for the ongoing projects and expansion and promotion programme of these projects. It has been stressed in the messages that an increase in the assistance by the United Nations and Red Cross will play a vital role in the reconstruction and economic growth of Afghanistan and in restoration of peace in the country (Radio Kabul, 6 March).

Food and Other Supplies Reach Kabul

The Soviet Union has carried out its first airlift of food to the Afghan capital, Kabul, since last months completion of its military withdrawal from Afghanistan. An Afghan government spokesman told reporters the airlift was carried out by two Soviet transport planes each carrying several tons of flour (BBC, 12 March).

Reports from Afghanistan say a big convoy of vehicles carrying supplies from the Soviet Union has arrived in the capital, Kabul, after a delay of several days. There were no more than 100 lorries in the convoy which was carrying food, fuel and other goods. Drivers in the convoy said their journey had passed off without attacks from the rebels and their delay had been due to heavy snow. A Reuter report quotes an Afghan official as saying that the rebels had agreed to allow the convoy to pass safely (BBC, 4 March).

Bakhtar news agency reports that inspite of the hurdles created by the terrorists, about 556 vehicles carrying some 6,000 tons of foodstuff

and other essential commodities have reached Kabul, on March 4-5, 1989 (Radio Kabul, 5 March).

India today despatched eight metric tons of food and medical supplies for Kabul. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that this was in response to a request made by the Afghanistan government. He said another instalment of nine metric tons will be sent soon (AIR, 23 March).

An IRC aircraft carrying three and a half tons of medicines and other medical stuff arrived in Kabul today. Bakhtar news agency reports that it is the fifth aircraft arriving Kabul with medical supplies for those people who have been injured in the war (Radio Kabul, 28 March).

Soviet POW's

A Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky in a meeting raised profound concern over the fate of Soviet prisoners of war held by Afghan Mujahideen, with Mikhail Shimahkon, a Russian artist now residing in the United States. Mikhail Shimahkon is known to be incharge of an International Committee for Release of Soviet Prisoners of War in Afghanistan (Radio Moscow, 26 March).

Economy

The United Nations distribution programme to help farmers around the Afghan capital Kabul has had to be halted because of rebel attacks. The programme to give out seeds and fertilizers and interrupted during a clash between Mujahideen and Government forces (BBC, 27 March).

3 — RECONSTRUCTION AND REPATRIATION

UN Appeal

The United Nations special coordinator for Afghanistan, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan has appealed to the European Community, the Uniteds States and the Soviet Union to step up aid to Afghanistan (VOG, 13 March).

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is estimated to contribute to the private voluntary groups 14 million dollars in both the 1989 and 1990 fiscal years as humanitarian aid to the Afghan people. The International Rescue Committee is the largest United States PVO in Pakistan running both refugees and cross-border assistance programmes (Daily Nation, 29 March).

Afghan Refugees

It comes amid reports of a mass exodus of refugees from Jalalabad across the border into Pakistan to escape the Mujahideen offensive which began ten days ago. Mr. Rustam Shah Mohmand, Secretary of Home and Refugees Affairs, in Pakistan North West Frontier Province, told BBC about the extent of the emergency. He said eversince the fighting intensified around Jalalabad as we expected we have started receiving a very large number of refugees along the border with Ningarhar province. He said we are not in a position to extend much help because under the present arrangements the UNHCR and the World Food Programme look after the registered Afghan refugees and their assistance even for the registered Afghan refugees is not enough to enable us to look after the 3.2 million refugees. These refugees are coming into Peshawar and Mohmand Agency and they are entering Bajaur Agency. He said, I have called a meeting of all the voluntary agencies based in Peshawar to launch an appeal to them to contact their donors to generate resources. Our priority items would be tents, food supplies and clothings. He said that the worst sufferers are the children who cannot find enough food. We have to carry out a comprehensive vaccination programme for refugees also in order to prevent the spread of any epidemics among the refugees (BBC, 15 March).

Land Mines

A large number of landmines litter Afghanistan, a legacy of the civil war. Now a special United Nations Team has been set up to help deal with the problem once the war is over. What makes the team unusual is that it consists entirely of women and its job will be to educate other women, Afghan refugees about the landmine dangers. The three women mine experts are members of the Canadian Army and are expected in Pakistan in the next couple of days (BBC, 21 March).

In Pakistan, foreign correspondents were shown facilities at Risalpur, which are used to train Mujahideen in demining. According to UN Envoys, nearly 1,000 Mujahideen are being trained in Risalpur (VOG, 22 March).

UN Resume Supplies in Kabul

The United Nations has resumed the distribution of food supplies to the most needy groups in Kabul. Thousands of Afghan, mainly women and children, turned up at a clinic in one of Kabul's slum areas to receive rations of flour and sugar. But only 800 families were registered and those who had to be turned complained bitterly. The UN says it has been able to reach nearly 4,000 of the some 30,000 people it considers to be the most vulnerable, the poorest children, pregnant and nursing women (BBC, March).

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